Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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POLL RESULTS

Have you had your flu shot yet?

Yes	33
No	52

Sunday, March 06, 2011

INSIDE

200th Wish

Nine-year-old Elizabeth Doses' wish to have a touch-screen computer became the 200th wish granted by the Make-A-Wish Foundation Guam-CNMI Chapter.

Local...Page 13

Mouthpiece

A Chinese Communist Party-run newspaper on Saturday attacked anti-government protest movements in the Middle East.

Asia...Page 16

Love Settles

Courtney Love's settlement of a case sparked by online attacks on a fashion designer show that while Twitter posts may be short, they can also be costly.

Life & Style...Page 21

Death threat caller, aunt ask Syed to 'forgive' as DPS yet to arrest suspect. PAGE 2

Govt revenue some $8M lower than projected in first 5 months. PAGE 3

Investors eye $5M to $300M in Saipan casinos

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Different investor groups from Hong Kong and South Korea and their local contacts have been presenting to individual lawmakers their plans of running casino operations on Saipan with investments ranging from $5 million to $300 million, but a committee has yet to report on a pending legislation legalizing gambling on Saipan.

Rep. Stanley Torres's (Ind-Saipan) House Bill 17-130, which has been with the House Ways and Means Committee since November, however, only allows a minimum of $100 million in new investment for a Saipan casino license to be approved.

His bill covers not only Saipan, but also Tinian and Rota where

See CASINOS on Page 4

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Flight crew and attendants of the Fly Guam pose after their arrival at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport early Saturday morning. Inset, a local girl offers a lei to a passenger of Fly Guam's maiden flight to Saipan.

117 aboard maiden flight of Fly Guam

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Fly Guam's inaugural flight to Saipan touched down early Saturday morning at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport.

A total of 117 passengers were onboard the inaugural flight and each one of them were greeted with smiles and of-

See FLY GUAM on Page 4

MBA is 2011 mock trial champion

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Marianas Baptist Academy emerged as this year's champion of the CNMI High School Mock Trial Competition held Friday at the Guma Hustisia.

Marianas Baptist Academy team members are all smiles as they receive their championship plaque and medals for winning this year's CNMI High School Mock Trial Competition.
MONETH G. DEPOSA

The 10-member group bested defending champion Mount Carmel School in the intense final rounds.

Gino Benavente, Jodel Fernandez, Seong Jun Hwang, Se Young Hwang, Dong Hee Im, Hanbert Jeong, Chan Woo Lee, Manatsu Omori, Michael Sheu, and Han Sol Yu will be the Commonwealth's representatives to the national high school mock trial tilt to be held in Phoenix, Arizona from

See MBA on Page 4

Local

Death threat caller, aunt ask Syed to 'forgive' as DPS yet to arrest suspect

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A 22-year-old who made a death threat to United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed and his family on Feb. 26 asked Syed through another call on Friday night to forgive him and drop the complaint against him.

The Department of Public Safety has yet to arrest the suspect as of yesterday, Syed said. Calls made to DPS spokesperson were not returned.

Syed said it was the suspect's aunt who first called him on Friday afternoon, asking Syed to forgive her nephew whom she said was just influenced by a friend.

Hours later, the aunt called again and made her nephew talk to Syed and ask for forgiveness.

Syed requested that *Saipan Tribune* not publish the names of the suspect, his aunt, and friend yet because investigations are still ongoing.

"I told the aunt and her nephew that the death threat did not only affect me but my wife and kids, too, and the many community members who showed me support. I also have to consult with them; they're much affected by this as much as I did," Syed said in a phone interview yesterday.

Syed, leader of one of the major foreign worker groups in the CNMI said even if he, his family, and the community forgive the suspect, DPS also has to decide on its own whether to arrest the suspect or not.

He said the man who made the death threat through a phone call is not the only one involved. He said just like what the suspect's aunt told him, he was only influenced by a friend.

"My wife stopped working and my kids didn't want to go to school because of the death threat. We had a hard time… but we're thankful for the many community members for their moral support and concern. I also thank the aunt for talking to me and for having her nephew talk to me," he said, adding that DPS has its obligation and duty to protect innocent community members and maintain peace.

Syed also brought the matter to the attention of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"Now I am feeling better because I know now who the person is. The police already know who that person is. But again, he's not the only person involved," he added.

He said a DPS detective informed him last week that they were able to identify the owner of the phone number that appeared on Syed's mobile phone when the death threat was made. He said the aunt told police that the suspect will ask for Syed's forgiveness.

Syed's United Workers Movement-NMI has long been advocating improved immigration status for nonresident workers who have been in the CNMI for a long time. On Feb. 24, he and a few hundreds held

See THREAT on Next Page

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Seminar Fee: $70 Per Person

Registration Deadline: March 10, 2011

To register or for more information, please contact Glenda P. Cabrera at 322-7337 ext. 237

Govt revenue some $8M lower than projected in first 5 months

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Government revenue is lower by up to $8 million than projected in the first five months of fiscal year 2011, acting governor Eloy S. Inos said on Saturday night.

Inos said January and February revenue collections were not as bad as the $6 million in revenue shortfall from October to December.

The former Finance secretary said the January revenue was almost on target, while February was $1 million to $2 million lower than projected.

"January, we're just about even. Then February, we're probably short by a million or $2 million. (In addition to $6 million shortfall in first quarter). We're probably down by $7 to $8 million, cumulative," Inos said, referring to the first five months of the fiscal year.

With a $132 million budget for FY 2011, the government projects $11 million in revenue from tax and fee collections every month, or $33 million every quarter.

In the first quarter, revenue was $6 million shy of target amount. But Inos said this is not overspending, but a shortfall in revenue collection.

Inos, who oversees government finances, said January and February collections were better than the previous three months because of increases in business gross revenue tax and withholding tax collections.

He said some may also be attributed to American Recovery and Reinvestment Act-funded projects.

For FY 2012, government resources available for appropriations could be down to $120 million.

Inos said the estimated $12 million drop in budget from the current fiscal year means austerity measures including work hour cuts will continue, and new ones could be implemented, including reorganization of certain agencies as recommended by an independent desk audit last year.

The Fitial administration has until April 1 to submit a budget plan to the Legislature.

Lawmakers including Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) and Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said they will make sure to work on the administration's budget submission immediately after the Legislature receives it, to avoid a repeat of the partial government shutdown last year when the FY 2011 budget bill was not passed on time because of deadlock between the House and Senate.

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Fitial invites Murkowski to NMI

WASHINGTON, DC—Gov. Benigno R. Fitial recently sat down with Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) in her office here to discuss the major challenges besetting the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Commonwealth is a familiar territory to the Murkowski family since Sen. Murkowski's father, then Sen. Frank Murkowski served as chair of the Natural Resources Committee. During his tenure, Sen. Frank Murkowski was a source of assistance for the NMI in the U.S. Senate. Since succeeding her father in the senate, Sen. Lisa Murkowski continues to keep a keen eye on the islands.

Fitial sought Murkowski's insights and assistance in addressing the challenges in the NMI resulting from the implementation of Public Law 110-229, or the CNRA. The governor pointed out that there exists a 'climate of uncertainty' for both investors and foreign workers due largely to the lack of final regulations yet to be implemented by the Department of Homeland Security. "Investors don't want to move forward with many of their plans until they can see a sense of certainty in terms of rules and regulations," said Fitial. "I'm very concerned that the longer we wait, the CNMI will lose out on such investments."

Sen. Murkowski indicated that the concerns of the Commonwealth are legitimate and of great significance to the welfare of its people. She seeks to continue to be an advocate for the islands in the U.S. Senate. ***(Office of the Governor)***

THREAT

From Page 1

a peaceful march to continue to draw the U.S. Congress attention to grant pathway to citizenship or outright citizenship to long-term foreign workers.

Two days after that peaceful march, Syed received the dreadful call from a man who threatened to chop off his neck, hands and feet, and kill his family too, for his advocacy on improved status for long-term foreign workers.

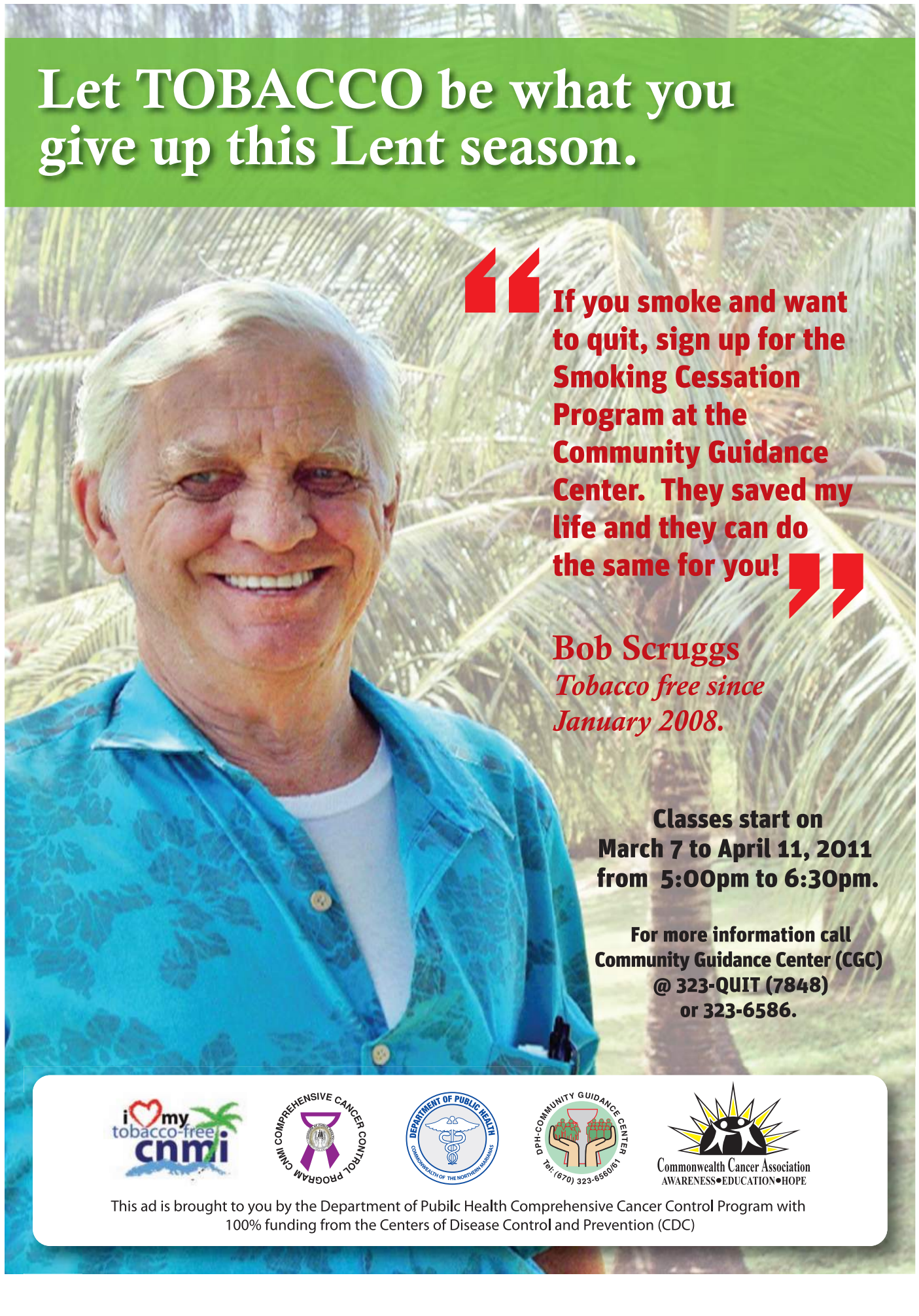
Syed put the call on speaker phone, for his wife to hear. When his wife asked the caller in Chamorro whether he'll carry out his threats, he hung up.

Florida-based human rights activist and former Rota teacher Wendy Doromal, in her blog, raised several questions, including the role of DPS to make arrests when they solve cases, or to plead for mercy for the criminals from the victims.

"Shouldn't they arrest the criminals, and then let the courts decide the criminals' fate? Isn't their primary role to protect victims and the public, rather than to protect criminals who may be their friends or relatives? Doesn't the act of asking the victim to reconsider pursuing the complaint put even more unnecessary pressure on the victim and his family?" Doromal asked.

She said while she believes in forgiveness, she also believes in consequences of committing crimes.

"Why shouldn't the terrorist caller be arrested? He committed a serious crime. He frightened innocent people including children. He stole the security, peace, and happiness from an innocent family. Additionally, if an arrest is not made, it will give credence to Saipan's ardent truth benders and fact twisters who publicly attacked Rabby by calling him a liar and claiming that he made up the story," Doromal said.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Senate president asks governor to reorganize CIP office

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) has asked Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to reorganize the Capital Improvement Project Office, to help reverse the decline in annual Section 702 CIP funding that the CNMI receives from the federal government.

"The loss of funds suggests we need to reevaluate how we manage 702 projects," Manglona said in a letter to Fitial, who is currently off-island.

Manglona said the person in charge of the CIP office, Virginia "Vicky" Villagomez, is also the governor's special assistant for planning and budget.

He said assistant attorney general Jim Stump also works on CIPs in addition to his regular duties as a tax attorney at the CNMI Office of the Attorney General.

"Working through the maze of federal requirements efficiently so that we receive the maximum under CIP, should not be considered a part time job; at least it is not in other states and territories," the Senate president said.

CIP administrator positions are full-time, highly compensated—in some jurisdictions salaries range from $100,000-$250,000—and require engineering degrees with up to 10 years of related experience.

Other notable criteria, include "five years project management experience, five years experience in government procurement and contracting, and five years experience working with federal environmental guidelines," Manglona said.

"Paying a top professional a high wage to compete for these dollars makes fiscal sense; especially considering that the funds to pay the salary of an administrator can come from CIP funds, and will be more than made up for by recovering the $2 million to $4 million we lose in any given year," he added.

In fiscal year 2012, the CNMI is scheduled to get $9.5 million in CIP funding, down from $10 million in 2011 and $11 million in 2010.

Obama's FY 2012 budget allows the Interior secretary to take away infrastructure money from any territory that is slow to spend.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan said the CNMI is slow to spend its CIP money. He said president's budget proposes that if "a territory has a substantial backlog of capital improvement program funds, the secretary may withhold or redistribute that territory's capital improvement funds for the current fiscal year among the other eligible recipient territories."

A substantial backlog is defined as spending less than 50 cents of every $1 appropriated.

The CNMI is only spending 32 cents of every $1 it gets.

"I think we can all agree that our track record of diminishing annual CIP grants demonstrates our need to reevaluate how we manage CIP projects. We cannot afford to continue losing CIP dollars, and if reorganizing the CIP office to hire and pay a top professional ensures we finish projects expeditiously and receive more funds this year than last, it would be money well spent," Manglona told Fitial.

He cited as an example the long-delayed Rota landfill project which has been waiting for completion since FY 2006 and is under the Division of Environmental Quality's notice of violation, as well as the overhaul of Rota's two main power producing engines.

"A dedicated, full-time experienced CIP project manager will ensure these projects are finished expeditiously. I hope we can speak further on this issue, and come to an agreement on the importance of reorganizing CIP management," the Senate president added.

Historically, the CNMI has been guaranteed between a minimum of $9 million and a maximum of $13 million annually in CIP monies.

Under 702 CIP, there is an incentive for moving projects expeditiously consistent with federal guidelines, especially because the CNMI competes for funds with other insular areas.

"Failing to proceed with projects in a timely manner and meet federal guidelines and requirements means we get less this year than we did the year before," Manglona added.

FLY GUAM

From Page 1

fered leis by two women in traditional Chamorro garb.

Vivi Cai, one of the tourists onboard, expressed her excitement in seeing what was in store for her and her family in the three-day trip to the CNMI.

She said blue beaches, fish, and historical war sites are among the many attractions that they want to explore.

"We love the beach…and we're excited to see the fishes. This is our first journey to Saipan and we're excited to see what are the amazing things in this island," Cai told *Saipan Tribune* as soon as her group arrived at the airport.

According to Deanna Amos, Fly Guam lead flight attendant, besides the 117 tourists from Hong Kong, some personnel of the airline were also onboard the maiden route to Saipan.

Despite a delay in the original schedule of 8:50pm Friday night, Amos described the overall trip as a "good flight." The first special passengers of Fly Guam, she said, were treated to a first-class catering service, champagne, free liquor, and other special touches that Fly Guam put in their flights.

"We provide them with our outstanding customer service," she said, describing Saipan as a great experience to both passengers and airline crew who were all greeted with open arms.

Amos said Fly Guam has two round trips each week to Saipan-Guam-Hong Kong and vice versa.

Saipan Tribune learned that Fly Guam's maiden flight used Boeing 737-400 aircraft with a 130-seat capacity. Of the 117 tourists, 88 passengers will stay on Saipan until Tuesday when the flight to Hong Kong returns. The rest will spend days in Guam.

Seen welcoming the inaugural flight early Saturday morning were Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero, customs division director Jesus Muna, and Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman.

"This is a welcome thing for the CNMI…Tourism is our major industry and we're here to support whatever assistance we can provide to ensure that they will continue bringing in tourists to our islands," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Bateman said the agency will continue to promote the destination in order to increase the much needed air seats.

"We're extremely happy to see this new airline. Anytime we can increase our air seat capacity is wonderful thing for NMI. We hope to see this airplane with passenger in every seat…and we will work hard to make it happen," she said.

MBA

From Page 1

May 5 to 7, 2011.

The mock trial title was the second for MBA, which won it all and advanced to the national contest in 2009.

Members of the outstanding group said their victory was unexpected.

"It's really unbelievable! Before the championship round, we just prayed together and promise to have fun whatever the outcome is….and we did it!" Chan Woo Lee told *Saipan Tribune* at the Fiesta Resort & Spa where the awarding rites was held.

Woo Lee was among the students who competed in 2009 national mock trial competition and hopeful on the better performance of NMI team this year.

"I hope to learn a lot of new things and I just hope to make new friends while in the national competition and open my eyes to the world out there," he said.

For an individual who dreams of becoming a lawyer someday, Woo Lee described the mock trial activities as a "priceless opportunity."

Besides the championship, MBA's Dong Hee Im was also adjudged the competition's best attorney for plaintiff—an award she also bagged last year.

"It feels really good…because we're not expecting it! Hopefully we can do better than we did in 2009 [in the national]," said Hee Im, who has been participating the mock trial contest since her ninth grade. In 2009, she was among the members who competed in the national contest.

When asked about the key factors that made the MBA team successful, "It's the hard work, confidence, and we have the best coach who guides us throughout the event."

For Manatsu Omori, winning the prestigious title brings more confidence to his fellow team members.

"We gained more confidence now as a mock trial team…and we will try to do better to represent the CNMI in the national," he said, adding that team's efforts finally paid off. For Omori, "win or lose, we had fun and we gained confidence that we can use in achieving more for ourselves." Last year, MBA finished second to Mount Carmel School.

Attorney Jennifer Dockter coached MBA and said the team deserved the championship for all their hard work.

"The 10 kids worked unbelievably hard. They put in too many hours in their practice. They studied the rules of evidence, the many technical terms, and they learned to really understand them and put them into their hearts. So when they get in the court, they talked about them even without thinking. They worked also hard in memorizing long documents for this competition…. so I feel the hard work are paid off," said the coach, adding that the team will soon start their intensive preparation for the national event.

Hailed second place winner was Mount Carmel School comprised of Maria Kristina Balajadia, Kevin Harvey Bautista, Victor Cabrera, Lourence Camacho, Anne Gelika Elenzano, Andrea Manese, Mae Nakajima, Jimin Ryu, Anastasia Schweiger, and Ginny Wu. The team's coaches included Lourdes Mendiola, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, and Joseph Taijeron.

Special awards, recognitions

Besides the championship award, the CNMI Bar Association also bestowed special awards and recognition during the special banquet Friday at Fiesta Resort & Spa.

The best attorney for plaintiff awards went to Joycelynn Atalig of Rota High School and MBA's Dong Hee Im, while Mary Hocog of Tinian High School was adjudged best attorney for the defense.

For the best witness for plaintiff award, Anastasia Schweiger of Mount Carmel School and Vinni Orsini of Marianas High School were hailed for the honor.

Rota High School's Maricel Atalig meantime emerged as the competition's best witness for the defense team.

The NMI Bar Association conferred this year's professionalism award to Rota High School team. Winners were awarded plaques and gift items by the event's sponsors.

Mock trial is a scholastic competition between both public and private schools throughout the CNMI. It started in 1999 by the CNMI Bar Association and former Justice Ramon Villagomez as a way to further the understanding and appreciation of the judicial system.

This year, the mock problem is the civil fictitious case of Palacios v. Oscar A. Romero Public High School.

CASINOS

From Page 1

casino gambling is legal.

Saipan voters twice rejected legalizing casino operation on Saipan.

Torres said yesterday that the Ways and Means Committee has not yet decided on whether to recommend passage of his bill or recommend a substitute bill.

He introduced the bill two months after the Senate rejected Rep. Froilan Tenorio's (Cov-Saipan) casino bill during a session on Tinian.

Tenorio said one of the groups of investors from Korea tossed the idea of investing some $5 million in casino operation, which is miniscule compared to another group of investors' plan and won't be able to qualify for a casino license because the pending bill requires at least $100 million in investment on Saipan and $50 million each on Rota and Tinian.

"I don't believe they have the capability to put up casino operation," he said.

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) said on Friday that a group of investors also met with him last week, expressing interest in investing over $300 million to operate a casino on Saipan.

"They also brought their banker with them," he said.

He said there's also interest in buying the unfinished castle-like structure near the Saipan airport for a casino resort.

"Investors have been coming into our office, inquiring about the status of the casino bill. We told them that we haven't seen the bill from the House. We cannot comment on legislation we have not seen. These investors feel casinos will be a big economic boost to the CNMI," Reyes said.

Reyes, who was among the senators who voted "no" on a Saipan casino bill last year, said in his view, Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino on Tinian and the new Rota Hotel and Casino need support.

"We have to recognize that," he said, adding that the casinos on Rota and Tinian need to be given a chance to succeed.

Tenorio, for his part, said given the $120 million projected revenue for fiscal year 2012 which is $12 million lower than FY 2011's $132 million, the government really needs to think about revenue-generating industries for government employees and the community as a whole.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said no investors have recently met with the administration about plans to operate casinos on Saipan.

But based on information he gathered, there's renewed interest in pushing for legalization of casinos on Saipan.

He said the Fitial administration is not taking a position on casino legalization on Saipan, and is only depending on what the Legislature will do with pending gambling bills.

Inos said casino industry on Saipan is something that will have to be put on the table to be deliberated on and debated.

He said if it does come to the table, the pros and cons of legalizing casinos on Saipan have to be weighed.

"But in the end, we've got to balance it—the social concerns versus the economic concerns," he said on Saturday night.

Besides legislation, legalizing casino on Saipan may also be decided on through legislative initiative or popular initiative.

The Senate earlier said if the House is really interested in legalizing casinos on Saipan, then it should directly ask the Saipan voters once again.

Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), a member of the Ways and Means Committee, said yesterday that there's no recommendation yet from the committee on what to do with Torres' bill.

He said he's aware of the casino investors' interest in Saipan, but is not privy to the meetings taking place.

Torres, in introducing his casino bill, had hoped the senators could consider his bill.

His H.B. 17-130 or the Commonwealth Casino Control Act gives money to CNMI-wide programs and activities.

Under Torres' bill, 10 percent of gaming tax revenues collected will be appropriated and earmarked to the CNMI Scholarship.

Another 10 percent will be given to medical referrals; 25 percent for utility assistance; 25 percent for air travel subsidies within the CNMI and Guam; and 30 percent for other programs as approved by the Legislature.

The bill imposes a 10 percent gaming tax.

All taxes, fees, fines, penalties, and other revenue collected by or on behalf of the casino commission with respect to the operation of a casino is deemed to be "general revenues" that will be deposited into the Commonwealth Treasury, and subject for general appropriations by the Legislature.

New local law gives $40K to Rota casino commission

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos signed a local law allotting $40,000 for the operations and activities of the Rota Casino Gaming Commission for fiscal year 2011, almost a year after another local law gave $402,000 for the commission for FY 2010.

That $402,000 came from the application fee that Rota Treasure Island Corp. paid to operate a casino on Rota.

So far, Rota Treasure Island is the lone casino operator on Rota.

Rep. Teresita Santos's (Ind-Rota), author of House Local Bill 17-37 which is now Rota Local Law 17-11, said she's thankful for the acting governor for recognizing the need to support the Rota casino industry by funding the commission.

Under the new local law, $40,000 will be divided among five items.

The biggest chunk of $14,000 will be for the salary of one inspector, while $13,000 will be for the commission's legal counsel.

Another $8,000 will be spent on office furniture and equipment, while $3,000 will be for communications and $2,000 for fuel and lubrication.

Santos said under a memorandum of understanding between the Rota mayor's office and the casino commission, the mayor's office has been providing employees to the commission because it has no full-time employee funding. The new law allows the commission to have one full-time inspector.

The expenditure authority for the new $40,000 appropriation is the casino commission's chair or her designee.

In the FY 2010 appropriations, the casino commission appropriated $60,000 for the salary of its executive director, Alfred Antolin and $228,865.17 for the commissioners.

From 1991 to 2003, Rota tried four times without success to allow casino operation through public initiative. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Fernandez slams NMC for blaming her over accreditation woes

Former Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez has slammed on NMC for having the audacity to blame her over the school's accreditation problems with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Fernandez, through counsel Brien Sers Nicholas, pointed out that, NMC in its answer and counterclaim to her lawsuit, implied that "NMC's continuing to have accreditation with WASC" was because of her.

In Fernandez's motion to dismiss NMC's counterclaim, Nicholas said it is most regretful that NMC continues to defame and malign her in its attempt to assert its claim in this case.

Nicholas said the federal court should note that NMC was put back on WASC's "order to show cause" after Fernandez's termination in April 2010.

The lawyer said when his client was hired as NMC's president, NMC was already on probation with WASC, only to put on "order to show cause."

Nicholas said through Fernandez's hard work and leadership, NMC regained its accreditation with WASC in June 2009.

"Plaintiff (Fernandez) had nothing to do with the difficulties now faced by NMC with respect to its accreditation by WASC," he said.

For NMC to try and shift the blame to Fernandez for its own woes with WASC, Nicholas said, is "totally unacceptable and unwarranted."

He said the court should not waste its time attempting to make sense of NMC's allegations much less accept them as being true.

Fernandez is suing NMC, former regents Janet King and Maria Castro "Paz" Younis, and sitting regents Andrew L. Orsini and Frank Rabauliman for allegedly depriving her of her good name and property, conspiracy, defamation, and conspiracy to defame her. She is also suing NMC for wrongful termination and breach of contract. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Drawing date moved to **March 10th at 4pm** in the IP&E office in Puerto Rico. Last day to submit all entries is at the close of business on **March 9, 2011** at any Shell Station.

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'2 lawyers got $38M by increasing contingency fee'

»Ex-Trustee says Hillblom's son left with only $12M share

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The former trustee of JLH Trust (Junior Larry Hillblom), one of the four DNA-proven children of the late business tycoon Larry Lee Hillblom, admitted that two lawyers obtained approximately $38 million in fees and costs from the Trust by increasing their contingency fee without Hillblom's knowledge.

Keith A. Waibel, who is based in Morro Bay, California, disclosed that as a result of lawyers David J. Lujan and Barry Israel getting $38 million from JLH Trust, Hillblom's portion of the multi-million dollar trust was drastically reduced to approximately $12 million.

Waibel made such admission in his cross-claim against Israel filed last week in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Lujan is based in Guam, while Israel resides in Santa Barbara, California. The two served as counsels for Hillblom during Hillblom's probate in the CNMI Superior Court.

Hillblom has sued Israel in federal court for allegedly conspiring to inflate the attorneys' contingency fee when Hillblom's fortune was still undergoing probate proceedings. Waibel was also named co-defendant in the lawsuit for negligence, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, and racketeering activity.

Waibel denied the allegations. Through his counsel Robert T. Torres and G. Patrick Civille, he filed the cross-claim against Israel.

Waibel asked the court to award him indemnity and contribution on his cross-claim, including attorney's fees, costs, and disbursements, against Israel who may be found liable.

Torres and Civille stated in the cross-claim that as Hillbroom's attorneys, Lujan and Israel established the JLH Trust, in which the child was and is the sole beneficiary from the Hillblom estate.

In 1998, Torres and Civille said, Lujan and Hillbroom's guardian executed a retainer agreement to compensate Lujan for his work on all of Hillbroom's matters concerning the Hillblom estate.

Torres and Civille said the 1998 retainer provided that Hillbroom would pay Lujan and any lawyers Lujan chose to work with one the case a contingent fee equal to 38 percent of the gross amount distributed to Hillbroom from the Hillblom estate.

Subsequently, Lujan, Israel and Hillbroom's guardian executed an addendum to the 1998 retainer, which added Israel as an additional attorney with whom Lujan would share equally in the contingent fee.

Torres and Civille said that, in 1999, Lujan and Israel executed the JLH Trust and settlement of Trust, and arranged to have all of Hillbroom's interest in the Hillblom estate assigned to the JLH Trust.

Torres and Civille said Lujan and Israel selected Waibel to be the trustee of the JLH Trust.

On the pretense of providing additional protections of the JLH Trust, Lujan and Israel allegedly selected individuals, including themselves, to serve as "protectors" of the trust to provide oversight and restraint over the trust's actions.

Compared to Lujan and Israel, however, the other protectors of the trust allegedly lacked the level of sophistication and business acumen required to properly serve in their capacity.

Torres and Civille said as a result, the protectors followed Lujan and Israel's lead in each decision regarding the JLH Trust.

Torres and Civille said exercising over their control over Waibel, Lujan and Israel demanded that Waibel raise the amount of the contingency fees that the JLH Trust paid them from 38 percent to 56 percent and pay additional costs for the same legal services already governed by the 1998 retainer and addendum.

"These demands were made after Junior's (Hillbroom) share of the Hillblom estate had been established, and no additional legal work remained to be done by Lujan or Israel. Lujan and Israel also required that these additional payments be concealed from Junior," according to Torres and Civille.

The lawyers said Lujan and Israel by the use of threats, coercion and intimidation maneuvered Waibel into a position where he had no choice but to accede to their demands or face economic ruin.

Waibel was allegedly forced to sign the 1999 retainer to increase contingency fees to Lujan and Israel from 38 percent to 56 percent.

"At no time did Waibel receive any direct additional financial benefit in connection with his unwilling assistance to help Lujan and Israel profit at the expense of the JLH Trust," Torres and Civille said.

Lujan also sued Waibel and other co-defendants in Guam. He alleged that Waibel and others in an effort to deflect attention from the losses he caused the JLH Trust, developed a scheme to blame Lujan for the poor state of the Trust.

Hillblom died in a plane crash off Anatahan on May 21, 1995. He left an estimated $550 million to $700 million in assets.

The approved heirship settlement provided that the Hillblom estate would distribute 60 percent of its assets equally to the four qualified heirs, entitling Hillbroom to 15 percent of Hillblom's $550 million estate.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950 • Telephone no. (670)236-0903 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0990

NOTICE OF CLOSURE
UNPAID AWARD AND BOND CLAIMS
Monday, March 7, 2011 first notice
Monday, March 14, 2011, second notice

No further action will be taken with respect to the claims listed below because each appears, from records available to the Department, to be uncollectible for one or more of the following reasons: (1) the employer against whom the order was issued is insolvent or no longer in business or no longer in the Commonwealth, or no person involved with the employer as an officer or director is available in the Commonwealth or can be held personally liable, or there are no known remaining assets of the employer in the Commonwealth; (2) no bond is available because the employment was illegal (and the order to pay was issued on a *quantum meruit* basis) and no bond was obtained by the employer, or the bonding company is insolvent or no longer in business or no longer in the Commonwealth, or no person involved with the bonding company as an officer or director is available in the Commonwealth or can be held personally liable, or there are no known remaining assets of the bonding company in the Commonwealth; and (3) no governmental entity has any liability whatsoever for claims arising out of labor contracts between two private parties.

The umbrella permit of each alien listed below has been reclassified by the Labor Department as of the date of the first notice from "claim pending" to "240K, work authorized" and continues in force through November 27, 2011. No action is needed by the claimant; this is done automatically on the Department's records. If you have settled your claim, your umbrella permit has been reclassified automatically when the Department received notice of the payment and nothing further is required.

With respect to each claimant, the underlying agency case, labor case, or denial case which resulted in the order to pay (that claimant asserts has not been collected) has been closed by final order of the Department. The Department issued public notices with respect to administrative procedures for collection on bonds in these claims. Each of these claims was processed, pursuant to a filing by the claimant, and that processing was completed in nearly all cases in 2009.

THERE ARE NO OUTSTANDING CLAIMS ARISING OUT OF UNPAID AWARDS IN LABOR CASES OF ANY KIND STILL PENDING IN THE DEPARTMENT'S RECORDS. All claims with respect to unpaid awards arising out of labor cases were required to be declared prior to the deadline for issuing umbrella permits. All persons who declared unpaid claims were issued umbrella permits regardless of whether they were in status or out of status at the time.

This determination as to these claims has been made from the best information available to the Commonwealth. A person affected by this determination has fifteen (15) days from the date of second notice in which to present, in writing, to the Administrative Hearing Office, any information relevant to collectability of the claim. This publication does not affect any prior order served personally or by mail on any person. This determination does not preclude or affect in any way any cause of action brought by the claimant in the Commonwealth courts. This publication does not affect any case or appeal with respect to labor bond claims currently pending in the Superior Court or any other court.

CLAIMANT	LIIDS NO.	Bond claim/ labor case no.
Abadilla, Ariel	103741	09-074
Abaygar, Zenaida	112336	
Abiendo, Alicia Q.	118359	09-040
Ahmed, Suhel	174669	LC 97-239
Alvaro, Edilberto C.	176210	09-039
Aque, Diosdado A.	127284	09-004
Aquino, Lucila G.	282351	LC 05-112
Ararao, Jimy	141131	09-072
Baing, Ambrosio V.	125774	09-001
Baltazar, Luzviminda	103094	
Bautista, Alexander	126099	09-017
Bernido, Marlon (or Marion)	117288	09-074
Bonoan, Johnson	135078	09-079
Briones, Warlito	110861	09-052
Cabalza, Lucille S.	105411	09-008
Capina, Araceli V.	205332	09-081
Casabuena, Amorsolo D.	112206	
Casapao, Juliana J.	282743	09-003
Chai, Feng Qi	122465	09-048
Che, Gang Hui	285558	09-041
Chen, Fei Fei	280154	09-035
Chen, Jian Hua	190921	09-014
Chen, Yan Qin	155057	09-015
Cui, Jing Zhu	298298	09-021
Cui, Wen Bi	113247	LC 08-180
Dabu, Juanito M.	120891	09-074
Dacucos, Imelda	182520	09-047
De Guzman, Jennifer	123361	CAC 08-249-08
Delos Santos, Mercedes	120755	09-071
Delos Santos, Yolanda	123949	09-037
Deng, Li Fang	157411	09-034
Ding, Guozheng	197862	09-027
Doctolero, Adela	285833	09-082
Domingo, Marcelina T.	174623	CAC 08-249-08
Drilon, Ariel Atayde	188829	09-074
Ebdane, Rodolfo S.	108935	LC 08-102
Elayda, Ramon A.	122255	
Elloso, Rolando	103913	09-069
Enriquez, Meriam	302390	09-013
Enriquez, Ricardo	288010	09-029
Fan, Chun Yan	197104	09-064
Fang, Juan Ping	285221	09-055
Felipe, Josephine	163805	09-023
Fernando, Feminencio	110776	09-053
Flores, Joselito B.	112974	LC 03-348
Francisco, Rodolfo M.	113200	LC 06-197
Gallar, Quirino	107371	
Gamelo, Felizardo	122980	09-019
Gautam, Kamala	204114	09-025
Genobaten, Edgar F.	195214	09-074
Gong, Jin Fang	181115	CAC 05-917-09
Gong, Zhen Pei	190925	
Gu, Jian Hua	310442	09-051
Guo, Li Yin	156577	
Guzman, Andres G.		CAC 02-098-12
Heneral, Anita D.	112361	CAC 05-023-03
Hossain, Monir		CAC 97-027-02
Hu, Gui Hua	287734	09-034
Huang, Feng Xia	171405	09-016
Huang, Hai Bin	171408	
Huang, Ruiang	202259	09-020
Huang, Ruiang	202259	09-083
Huang, Shi Zhong	290355	
Ibanez, Nilo D.	113822	CAC 02-098-12 etc.
Inot, Rafael A.	172745	
Isidro, Rommel C.	186879	09-005
Isidro, Ryan C.	186876	
Jacela, Jonathan P.	281589	
Jin, Cai Ping	181883	09-034
Jin, Cheng Quan	298356	09-061
Khalequzzaman	133394	CAC 97-109-08
Khan, MD Leakat Ali	125268	09-026
Kiseo, Salvador	100477	09-024
Lacson, Bernabe R.	143668	
Li, Ai Min	143364	09-034
Li, De Fu	106024	09-060
Li, Chang Jun	141208	09-018
Li, Dan Yun	159051	
Li, Guang Chun	135833	
Li, Guang Zhi	157413	09-034
Li, Ji Di	166547	09-045
Li, Ji Di	166547	09-065
Li, Lian Yu	176275	
Li, Qi Rong	183070	09-011
Li, Xiang Rong	174085	09-034
Li, Xin Ying	164273	09-059
Li, Yan Xia	190669	09-042
Lian, Wan Long	180740	09-070
Lin, Fu Xing	180451	LC 00-294
Lin, Mei Can	138317	09-067
Liu, Shun Li	282010	09-009
Liu, Ya Fang	302538	09-031
Liu, Yan	166308	09-034
Long, Xiao Hong	281431	09-066
Luo, Cheng	113446	09-043
Macatantan, Armando S.	122824	09-010
Maglaya, Raffie	288692	09-080
Magtapat, Ruperto L.	123560	09-002
Manalang, Nelia	294425	
Manaloto, Danilo V.	301340	LC 09-094
Manlangit, Ely	136136	09-044
Manlangit, Ely	136136	09-073
Marcelo, Rodolfo	110668	09-028
Matin, Abdul		AC 98-034
Mollah, Masirul H.	151242	
Nagpacan, Edwin G.	111541	09-007
Obra, Renita	196251	09-022
Pagdato, Marticio G.	111100	09-012
Panalagao, Bernardo	284642	
Pascual, Hilario G.	121077	
Perez, Apolos Jr.	122092	09-038
Pineda, Odilon C.	172708	LC 09-095
Pulido, Marilou	128752	09-082
Qian, Mei Ling	194838	09-077
Qian, Xiao Li	201225	09-018
Qu, Yue Ping	297610	09-063
Quiroz, Dindo S.	203491	09-078
Rahman, MD	125211	
Ramos, Gracita	280117	09-068
Rahaman (or Rahman), Atiqor		AC 98-034
Raper, George B.	113821	LC 07-012
Ren, Hong Hua	118959	09-032
Rondares, Wilson	111279	
Sagana, Bonifacio	203495	CAC 07-070-12 etc.
Secillano, Virgilio	117931	09-033
Shen, Yuan Neng	287300	09-057
Shi, De Sheng	296304	LC 07-183
Song, Li Wei	155135	09-018
Song, Li Wei	155135	09-058
Su, Yue Min	159051	
Sun, Mao Mei	194198	09-075
Taracatac, Anita G.		CAC 02-098-12
Tengson, Josephine R.	294337	09-049
Tiamzon, Cecilia S.	140121	
Valdez, Edgar	106684	
Velicaria, Mauro	103647	09-033
Viray, Mary Ann	120641	09-082
Wang, Ya Su	190465	09-034
Wang, Yu Lin	156064	09-076
Wei, Yan Lin	170224	09-018
Wei, Yan Lin	170224	09-062
Wu, Xiao Wen	194847	09-036
Wu, Yan Mei	121548	09-034
Wu, Yi Pan	194235	
Xiao, De Lai	200144	CAC 08-320-11
Xiao, Xue Ming	205360	
Xing, Xue Bin	281829	09-054
Xu, Yi Ming	133231	LC 03-032
Xu, Que Hua	139935	CAC 08-320-11
Xu, Shu Jian	149583	09-034
Yan, Xu Nuo		CAC 08-320-11
Yang, Feng Xiang	154216	09-034
Yang, Han Ju	118363	09-034
Yue, Jun Fang	292546	09-018
Zeng, Shun Lin	297211	09-050
Zhang, Chun Mei	135682	09-034
Zhang, Hui	286180	
Zhang, Ji Chun	132674	
Zhang, Xue Hua	176083	09-034
Zhang, Mei Hua	190248	09-034
Zheng, Kang Jiu	269513	LC 98-082
Zheng, Feng Rong		LC 98-402
Zheng, Guo Hua	155707	09-056
Zhi, Ya Bin	298893	09-030
Zhou, Ren	120913	09-006
Zhou, Tie Gang	294128	09-046

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB11-DPW/ED-063
SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 05, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING BINS FOR DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - ENERGY OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD LOCATED ON THE THIRD (3RD) FLOOR OF THE MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA OFFICE #315, SUSUPE OR REQUESTED VIA E-MAIL TO **res_recycling_bins@recovery.gov.mp.**

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MS. ALFREDA CAMACHO VIA EMAIL TO alfreda.camacho@recovery.gov.mp OR FAX TO (670) 234-3016 **NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, MARCH 23, 2011.**

THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED IN WHOLE FROM THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) OF 2009. THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **MARTIN C. SABLAN**
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

/s/ **MICHAEL J. ADA**
CNMI ARRA LEAD

/s/ **THELMA B. INOS**
DIRECTOR OF ENERGY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB11-DPW/ED-064
SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 05, 2011 • TIME: 1:00 P.M.
"GOVERNMENT OFFICE COOL ROOF PROGRAM FOR DEPARMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - ENERGY OFFICE"

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QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MS. ALFREDA CAMACHO VIA EMAIL TO alfreda.camacho@recovery.gov.mp OR FAX TO (670) 234-3016 **NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, MARCH 23, 2011.**

THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED IN WHOLE FROM THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) OF 2009. THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **MARTIN C. SABLAN**
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

/s/ **MICHAEL J. ADA**
CNMI ARRA LEAD

/s/ **THELMA B. INOS**
DIRECTOR OF ENERGY

11 students bag gold in thespian competition

Eleven middle and high school students from various private and public schools in the Commonwealth took home gold medals in the 2011 Thespian Regional Competition and will officially represent the islands in the national contest in Lincoln, Nebraska in June.

Organized by the National Forensic League board, 35 finalists vied for the prestigious awards during the whole day competition held at Marianas High School Saturday.

Harold Easton, chapter director for the Thespian Society in the Western Pacific Islands, said the 11 first place winners in the contest categories will comprise the NMI Team for the thespian society festival. Three gold medalists will be named this week to complete the 15-member team.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

The gold medalists in 2011 Thespian Regional Competition pose after the awarding rites Saturday night. The group will represent the islands in the national thespian competition in Lincoln, Nebraska in June this year.

In the Junior Thespian Division, the six gold medalists included Hopwood Junior High School's Mikhail Alcantara who won first place in monologue; Hopwood's Jennella Nelmida who topped the solo musical theater; San Antonio Elementary School's Mary Jane Pepito and Stephanie Lumbad, who both won in mime; while Hopwood's Annabel Manzo and Christine Aninzo ruled the duet acting competition.

In the high school division, the five gold medal winners were Marianas High School's Darren Cajipo for mime and MHS' John Darag for solo musical theater.

Three students of MHS also won the technical aspect of the thespian competition as Salvi Villanueva was adjudged gold medalist in the film category, Rozette Bunao for overall set design, and Rochelle Dimapolis as overall best costume design winner.

Winners for the duet acting and monologue categories will be known this week.

Of the 11 student winners, many were first-timers to the national competition and are excited to the upcoming challenge.

"I am very happy that I won and will have this opportunity to be in the national thespian. This is my first time and I will keep on practicing my piece so I could do well in the States," said monologue gold medal awardee Mikhail Alcantara.

The student from Hopwood has consistently joined the thespian events since October that earned him the needed points to be in the national team. Last Saturday's event was the final round of the rigorous competition that started in October last year.

Salvi Villanueva, meantime, expressed confidence in winning in the regional competition.

"I really worked hard for this and… yes, I am expecting it! I know that there are many good competitors in the States and their films are way better than mine, but I believe in my ability," he said.

This year marks his first time to join the thespian events.

For Rozette Bunao, back-to-back winner in the overall set design, winning in the same category always feels like the first time. "This is my second time to win this category…and my second experience to represent the CNMI in the national thespian. Whether win or lose, I will do my best to represent our islands." ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

INVITATION FOR BIDS
WATER TASK FORCE
IFB11-GOV- 003

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for the AGAG WATER SYSTEM WELL FIELD ISOLATION – PART A in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Install approximately 2,600 linear feet of underground waterlines (4 inch through 12 inch) with appurtenant valves, fittings, and pressure reducing valves.
- Installation of six (6) deep well pumps in existing well.
- Installation of one (1) new booster pump and appurtenant equipment.
- Connect to existing waterlines.
- Restore disturbed asphalt paving.
- Pressure testing and disinfection of new waterlines.
- Construction activity to not interrupt existing water service to the area.

A non-refundable payment of $500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **February 21, 2011** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 a.m.,** on **March 4, 2011** , at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 PM on **March 3, 2011**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked **"IFB11-GOV-003".** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 3:00 pm local time **March 23, 2011**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 3:00 pm local time **March 23, 2011**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 23, 2011**, and must be received no later than **April 1, 2011**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **April 4, 2011**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **March 24, 2011**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial
Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply

You're On Your Own!

CNMI Citizen Corps Program – CNMI Office of Homeland Security
(670) 664-2216

ARE YOU READY?

How quickly do you expect emergency first responders to reach you, loved ones or neighbors just after a typhoon, earthquake, tsunami, fire or terrorist attack?

Maybe, not soon enough.

BE PREPARED! GET TRAINED!

For your family. For your community. For CNMI!

APPLY TODAY FOR C.E.R.T. TEAM TRAINING!

Although the Department of Public Safety – Fire Division stands ready to respond to any emergency, first responders who provide fire and medical services may not be able to meet the demand for these services in the event of a major disaster. The number of victims, communications failures and road blocks will prevent people from accessing emergency services they have come to expect at a moment's notice through 911. People will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate life saving and life sustaining needs.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a program that educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organizations and disaster medical operations.

CERT is a FREE course delivered by emergency first responders in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Department of Homeland Security.

It benefits any citizen who takes it, allowing better preparation to respond to and cope with the aftermath of a disaster.

Are you ready?

For more information or how to become part of the CERT program, contact:

CNMI CERT COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Joey C. Dela Cruz
Citizen Corps Program Manager
Tel: (670) 664-2216
Fax: (670) 664-2218
Email: jdelacruz.ohs@gmail.com

74 take part in Super CPR Saturday

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senior policy adviser Jon Joyner was in Los Angeles when he witnessed a man collapse while crossing a street. Nobody in the scene, not even Joyner, knew how to administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation at that time. The incident prompted Joyner to equip himself with CPR skills years ago.

Already armed with basic know-how, Joyner still decided to attend the Super CPR Saturday last March 5 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe to update his knowledge on this life-saving skill.

"It's a refresher course for me. It was informative. CPR skills should be regularly updated," Joyner told *Saipan Tribune* after Saturday's training.

Organized by the American Red Cross NMI Chapter, the training drew 74 community members who wanted to become skilled at the emergency procedure that has saved countless lives.

Executive director John Hirsh said the Super CPR Saturday is conducted every March as part of the American Red Cross Month celebration.

"The way the Red Cross training works is that we try to teach life-saving skills like CPR or bandaging techniques with the foundation set on how to recognize an emergency through choking, breaking glass, or a loud thud. Those should serve as cues," he explained.

Regular fee for Red Cross CPR trainings held about twice a year is $35 per person. The fee for Saturday's training, however, was reduced to $5, thanks to the financial support of the Office of Homeland Security and the CNMI Citizen Corps Program.

The training featured the use of enhanced and "more life-like" props such as the mannequin, said Hirsh.

Hirsh also said that the training attracted a "very diverse" group of participants whose motivations vary from job obligation to loved ones who have medical conditions or have been in accidents in the past.

With the government position he currently holds, Joyner noted the significance of having CPR skills.

"As a public servant, I am going around the community all the time and it's important that I feel comfortable knowing that I have the skills in case an emergency situation comes up," he said.

Sgt. Leslie Sablan of the 368 Military Police Company said the training also served as a refresher course for her.

"I do find that everyone should have CPR skills in the event that somebody might need it," said the 29-year old Sablan who is part of the Troops to Teach program of the Hopwood Junior High School.

Venerando Martin, who works for G4S Security, said acquiring CPR skills will come in handy not only when he does his job manning the Grotto diving site but also in other situations.

"I can use my CPR skills anywhere, anytime to help someone in an accident or any emergency situation. It's good that Red Cross has this kind of program," he said.

Koblerville resident Mary Ann Castro said having CPR skills is advantageous for her since both her husband and 7-year old daughter have asthma.

She recounted how she panicked when her husband had asthma attacks three times because she didn't know what to do.

"Through this training, I learned about CPR. In the future, although I know that I would still be nervous if another emergency arises, at least I already know what to do," said Castro.

According to Hirsh, about 2 to 3 percent of residents in the CNMI have already taken their CPR course Red Cross aims to have more people equipped with the necessary skills needed in emergency situations.

"The real goal is when a disaster or emergency is right in front of them, people are already familiar with life-saving skills and know how to call 911," he said.

Hirsh said participants of the training will receive a two-year CPR certification. He added that the Red Cross plans to conduct a new training program for compression-only CPR later this year.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
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SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER (ATCT) PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-11

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Preventive Maintenance of the Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) at the Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing monthly maintenance services for the Tower, the Base Building and its surroundings. The proposal package which includes the scope of work, selection criteria, and draft agreement will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Monday, February 21, 2011. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work- All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all costs that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project. Proposers shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows~ *"Proposal for tile Preventive Maintenance of the Air Traffic Control Tower at the Saipan International Airport"*. One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2011**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

Contractor will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA's requirements- Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ **EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO**
Executive Director
Date: Feb. 18, 2011

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION TO BID
CUC-ITB-11-021

SURVEYED VEHICLES

The office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is inviting interested individuals and firms to bid on CUC surveyed vehicles located in Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Interested bidders must bid on all vehicles specified, for either Saipan, Tinian or Rota; or bid on all vehicles specified on all three Islands.

The bid form, list of surveyed vehicles and other relevant information may be picked-up at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Four (4) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-ITB-11-021, CUC SURVEYED VEHICLES"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 A.M. ChST, March 17, 2011,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Prospective bidders must sign a Waiver of Liability, removing CUC's liability from claims resulting from violations relating to the removal and disposal of the surveyed vehicles. CUC shall transfer and assign the surveyed vehicles to the prospective bidder in a **"As is, Where is"** condition. By accepting this transfer and assignment, the bidder acknowledges that CUC has made no representation or warranties of the merchantability, quality, fitness, and condition of the properties.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the CUC.

All inquiries shall be must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST), **March 11, 2011** to Manny B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer, via email msablan@cucgov.net or Joseph M. Fejeran, Purchasing Specialist via email jfejeran@cucgov.net.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT
Happy birthday to Frances Pablico who is celebrating her special day today, March 7. More blessing to come and may you have many, many more birthdays to come! God bless and take care always! From your Joeten Ace Hardware Family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 7, 2000

CPA denies discrimination charge
Commonwealth Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas yesterday brushed off allegations that the agency discriminated an accounts clerk of the seaport who filed a civil suit before the U.S. District Court last week. Mr. Salas said CPA has never discriminated against any of the ports authority's employees, in reaction to the $1 million discrimination and harassment civil suit lodged by seaport accounts clerk Rudy C. Aguon. Aside from $1 million representing damages for injury, pain and suffering and emotional distress, Mr. Aguon is demanding payment for medical and incidental expenses, loss of earnings, attorney's fees and litigation costs.

CPA exceeds debt payment requirement
The level of revenues currently generated by the Commonwealth Ports Authority from its aviation division has started showing signs of improvement, enabling it to comply with the $20 million airport bond indenture. After several months of falling short to meeting the 125 percent debt coverage ratio requirement, CPA managed to exceed the required debt service coverage by injecting additional revenues from its airport operation during the first month of the year. A report prepared for the CPA Board of Directors disclosed the 125 percent required debt coverage ratio has been exceeded by 212 percent, with CPA posting a whooping 337 percent for the month of January 2000.

Mar. 7, 2001

$2.4M earmarked for Kobler housing
Prompt completion of all 45 housing units in Koblerville is now within reach following the signing into law of a measure that appropriates $2.4 million to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. The signing of acting Gov. Jesus R. Sablan of House Bill 12-235 into Public Law 12-40 will help NMHC meet its original completion target for the Koblerville project this year, almost two years since actual construction started in 1999. Housing Executive Director Marylou S. Ada disclosed majority of the units have already been pre-qualified to interested families and that NMHC expects to officially award the units soon after construction work is completed in three months.

AGO warns vs. investment scams
The Office of the Attorney General yesterday raised the alarm against the presence of investment scams in the Northern Marianas, as it urged consumers to take extra caution. The Commonwealth has some pyramid, or multi-level marketing schemes, operating at the moment, said AGO in a media statement. Under no circumstances should one invest or participate in these schemes. According to AGO, pyramids go by many names. They may be known as Ponzi schemes, mathematical tricks, endless chains, multilevel marketing agreements and distributorship agreements. Multilevel marketing is the current popular description.

Mar. 7, 2002

CHC eyeing tie-up with private clinics
Instead of hiring new doctors for the Commonwealth Health Center, Public Health Secretary James Hofschneider said yesterday his department is planning an integration with private clinics, which is in line with efforts to improve health care services to the public. Hofschneider said he had communicated this with a few private clinics on Saipan, and he intends to meet with the rest. The health chief, an active medical practitioner prior to his appointment to the post, said this would improve healthcare services in the Commonwealth, since patients may be attended by their private doctors at the public hospital even at an unholy hour.

FAA eyes Rota runway expansion
The Federal Aviation Administration is exploring ways to allocate some $20 million for the Rota International Airport expansion project, as part of growing efforts to stimulate the island's economy. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said a big portion of the airport improvement project will be done in phases in the next two years through funding assistance from the FAA. Salas said the Rota Legislative Delegation has already allocated around $5 million to serve as a springboard for the expansion of the island's air transport facility. "We're beefing up efforts to begin the Rota runway extension project. CPA is due to conduct its environmental assessment study." The actual design and construction will be based on the result of the assessment study, which will cover endangered species mitigation areas in accordance with the requirements set by both local and federal governments.

CUC faces funding problem for Power Plant 3 cleanup

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. wants to proceed with the cleanup of CUC's Power Plant 3, which is located near the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport, but funding continues to be a problem.

CUC legal counsel Deborah Fisher said now that CUC has received the assessment report for Power Plant 3, which was approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the next step is to do the cleanup.

"CUC is currently reviewing a preliminary proposal for cleanup from the same contractor who prepared the report," said Fisher in her report filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI last week.

CUC, the legal counsel pointed out, is aiming to ensure continuity on the project so that it can proceed forward with a contractor who is already knowledgeable about and familiar with the Power Plant 3 site.

Fisher agreed with EPA that funding for such cleanup continues to be CUC's issue.

CUC and EPA did not indicate the amount needed for the cleanup project.

EPA approved in July 2010 CUC's submission of assessment work plan for Power Plant 3, which is also known as Isley Field Booster Station. Fieldwork began in October 2010 and was completed in December 2010.

CUC's contractor's assessment report, which was submitted to EPA, contained a cleanup action recommendation.

EPA has approved the assessment report and the contractor's recommendation for cleanup.

EPA recently stated that CUC needs to identify a funding source and proceed with site cleanup. EPA legal counsel Bradley R. O'Brien said oil contamination at the facility was to be addressed by CUC.

In February 2010, EPA along with contractors and staff from the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality, cleaned up Power Plant 3 of polychlorinated biphenls (PCBs), a toxic chemical.

Power Plant 3 is no longer utilized as a power plant, but has been used for many years as a transformer oil storage area.

Some of the transformer oil which was stored at this facility reportedly contained PCBs. Some of the old transformers came back to the Trust Territory period and had been stored in Isley Field for over 10 years.

Under the federal court's order, CUC is required to undertake all necessary steps to remove the discharge or threat of oil and hazardous substances into the soil, groundwater, and navigable waters.

Military training on Farallon de Medinilla

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

- March 7-9, from 9am to 11pm
- March 10-11, from 9am to 11pm
- March 12-13, from 9am to 12:59am

The public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the CNMI. ***(USN)***

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH MARCH 2011

Together The Future is Brighter!

March 01, 2011 (Tuesday)

PROCLAMATION SIGNING:
By: ***Acting Governor, Eloy S. Inos***
Venue: *Governor's Conference Room*
Time: *2:00pm – 2:30pm*

March 02, 2011 (Wednesday)

2011 CDD Survey
Conductors: *Ray Diaz, AT Coordinator & Lillian S. Ada, Planner, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities*
Venue: *Kagman Village (Home Visits)*
Time: *9:00am – 4:00pm*

The CNMI Developmental Disabilities Network requests your input in shaping our efforts over the next five years.

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/2 or cell 287-7006 if you wish to participate in taking the survey or for more information.

March 03, 2011 (Thursday)

2011 CDD Survey
Conductors: *Ray Diaz, AT Coordinator & Lillian S. Ada, Planner, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities*
Venue: *Kagman Village (Home Visits)*
Time: *9:00am – 4:00pm*

The CNMI Developmental Disabilities Network requests your input in shaping our efforts over the next five years.

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/2 or cell 287-7006 if you wish to participate in taking the survey or for more information.

March 05, 2011 (Saturday)

2011 CDD Survey
Conductors: *Ray Diaz, AT Coordinator & Lillian S. Ada, Planner, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities*
Activity: *CNMI Diabetes Coalition Forum*
Venue: *Southern High School (Koblerville)*
Time: *8:00am – 2:00pm*

The CNMI Developmental Disabilities Network requests your input in shaping our efforts over the next five years.

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/2 or cell 287-7006 if you wish to participate in taking the survey or for more information.

March 08, 2011 (Tuesday)

Webinar: "Quick Checks for PDF Accessibility" *Methods to check a PDF file for accessibility as well as make changes to the PDF to meet accessibility guidelines*

Venue: *CNMI Council's Conference Room Building #1312, Capitol Hill*
Time: *5:30am – 6:30am*

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/2 or cell 287-7006 to register or for more information.

March 09 2011 (Wednesday)

Self – Advocacy Training
Presenters: *Ray D. Diaz & Lillian S. Ada*
Time: *9:00am – 11:30am*
Venue: *Center for Living Independently*

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/2 or cell 287-7006 to register or for more information.

March 10, 2011 (Thursday)

Self-Advocacy Training
Presenters: *Ray D. Diaz & Lillian S. Ada*
Time: *9:00am – 11:30am*
Venue: *Center for Living Independently*

Please note: Seating is limited.

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/2 or cell 287-7006 to register or for more information.

March 11, 2011 (Friday)

Webinar: "Social Security 101: What's in it for me?"
This webinar is designed to reach young adults, ages 18-24, and will explore how Social Security works - how it's funded, what the FICA tax is, and how the program is relevant to college students and young workers. The webinar will also include tips on saving and planning for a secure financial future.

Presenters: *Social Security Administration*
Time: *6:00 am*
Venue: *CNMI Council on DD*

Please note: Seating is limited.

March 11, 2011 (Friday)

Self-Advocacy Training
Presenters: *Ray D. Diaz & Lillian S. Ada*
Time: *9:00am – 11:30am*
Venue: *Center for Living Independently*

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/2 or cell 287-7006 to register or for more information.

March 15, 2011 (Tuesday)

Legislative Visit
Coordinators: *Ray D. Diaz & Lillian S. Ada*
Time: *9:00am*
Venue: *CNMI Legislature, Capitol Hill*

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/2 or cell 287-7006 for more information.

March 16, 2011 (Wednesday)

Sensitivity Training for Transportation Service Providers
Presenter: *Ray D. Diaz*
Time: *9:00am – 11:00am*
Venue: *TBA*

Legislative Visit
Coordinator: *Ray D. Diaz & Lillian S. Ada*
Time: *TBA*
Venue: *CNMI Legislature, Capitol Hill*

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/2 or cell 287-7006 for more information.

March 17, 2011 (Thursday)

Sensitivity Training for Landlords & Realtors
Presenters: *Ray D. Diaz & Lillian S. Ada*
Time: *9:00am – 11:00am*
Venue: *TBA*

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/2 or cell 287-7006 for more information.

March 30, 2011 (Wednesday)

Assistive Technology Fair
Presenter: *TBA*
Time: *9:00am – 4:00pm*
Venue: *Fiesta Resort Hotel*

Functional Behavior: Understanding why children do *what they do for teachers and parents.*
Presenter: *Jerry Diaz M.Ed., Early Childhood Special Education Teacher*
Time: *5:00pm – 8:00pm*
Venue: *Fiesta Resort Hotel*

Interested individuals requesting special accommodations (sign language interpreter, braille, or alternative formats) are asked to notify the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at least 5 days in advance of their special accommodations needs. This will give the organizers ample time to coordinate and provide the accommodation.

For more information, please contact CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities Office at 664-7000/7001/7002/ or Fax at 664-7030 or 511 or 711 - Telecommunication Relay Service.

This Ad was paid by DD Basic and AT Act Funds

Event is sponsored by the following, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, AT Project, in collaboration with NMC- UCEDD and NMPASI.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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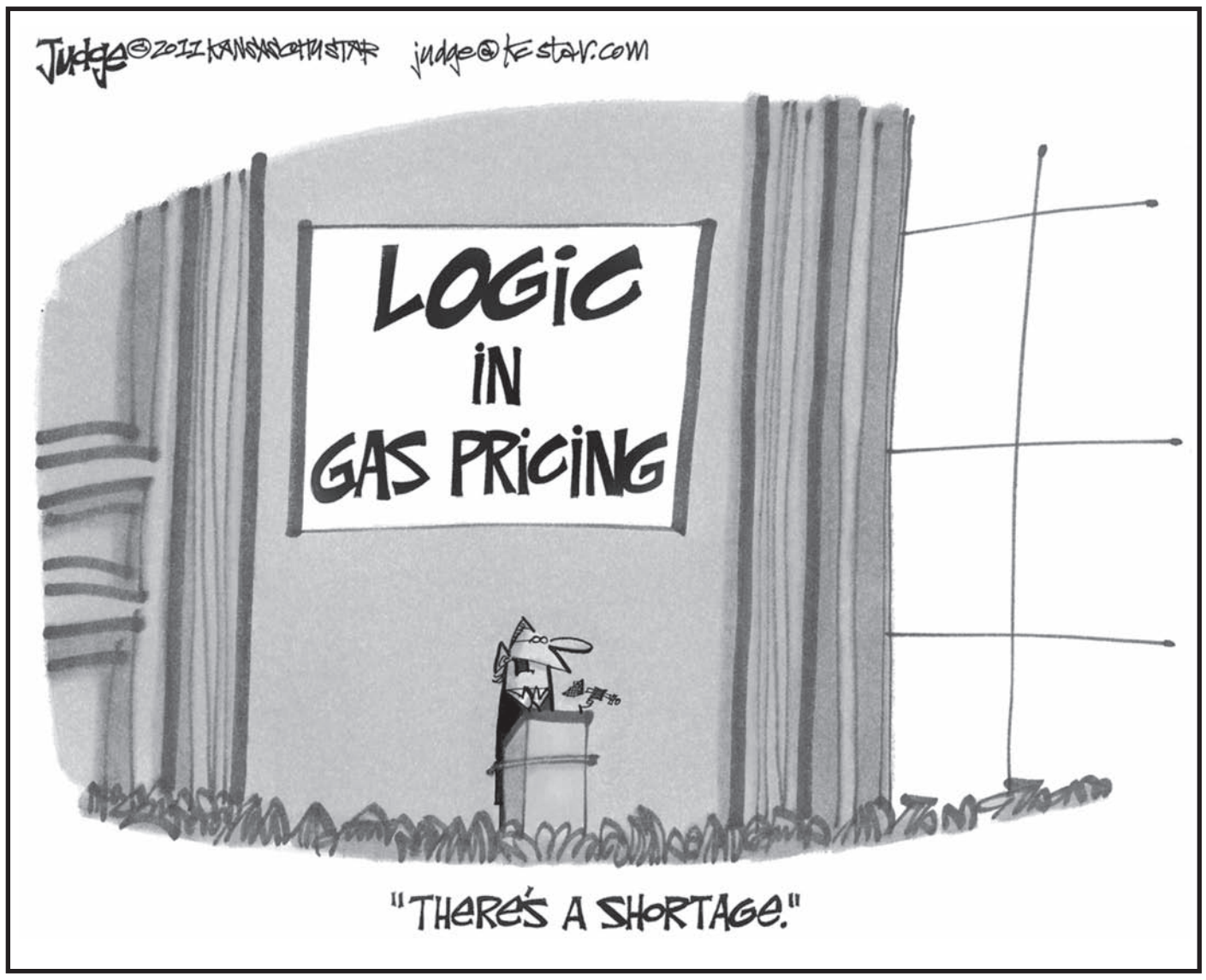


To all the children seeking love from their parents

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

This morning my thoughts are on all the children who are crying out for love and attention from their parents. We parents make their lives happy or we make their lives miserable. May we never forget that we are parents of children who need us. Let us not forget that we once were children. The thoughts and love our parents gave us are who we are today. Please think about the meanings in the poems I wish to share with you this morning.

FATHER FORGETS
By W. Livingston Larned

Listen, son: I am saying this as you lie asleep,
one little paw crumpled under your cheek and the blond curls stickily wet on your damp forehead.
I have stolen into your room alone.

Just a few minutes ago, as I sat reading my paper in the library, a stifling wave of remorse swept over me. Guiltily I came to your bedside.

There are the things I was thinking, son; I had been cross to you. I scolded you as you were dressing for school because you gave your face merely a dab with a towel.
I took you to task for not cleaning your shoes.
I called out angrily when you threw some of your things on the floor.

At breakfast I found fault too. You spilled things. You gulped down your food. You put your elbows on the table. You spread butter too thick on your bread. And as you started off to play and I made for my train, you turned and waved a hand and called, "Goodbye, Daddy!" and I frowned, and said in reply, "Hold your shoulders back!"

Then it began all over again in the late afternoon.
As I came up the road I spied you,
down on your knees, playing marbles.
There were holes in your stockings.
I humiliated you before your boyfriends
by marching you ahead of me to the house.
Stockings were expensive—
and if you had to buy them you would be more careful!
Imagine that, son, from a father!

Do you remember, later, when I was reading in the library,
how you came in timidly, with a sort of hurt look in your eyes?
When I glanced up over my paper, impatient at the interruption, you hesitated at the door.
"What is it you want?" I snapped.
You said nothing, but ran across in one tempestuous plunge,
and threw your arms around my neck and kissed me,
and your small arms tightened with an affection that God had set blooming in your heart and which even neglect could not wither. And then you were gone, pattering up the stairs.

Well, son, it was shortly afterwards that my paper slipped from my hands and a terrible sickening fear came over me.
What has habit been doing to me?
The habit of finding fault, of reprimanding—
This was my reward to you for being a boy.
It was not that I did not love you;
I was measuring you by the yardstick of my own years.

And there was so much that was good and fine and true in your character. The little heart of you was as big as the dawn itself over the wide hills.
This was shown by your spontaneous impulse
to rush in and kiss me good night.
Nothing else matters tonight, son.
I have come to your bedside in the darkness,
and I have knelt there, ashamed!

It is a feeble atonement; I know you would not understand these things if I told them to you during your waking hours.
But tomorrow I will be a real daddy!
I will chum with you, and suffer when you suffer,
and laugh when you laugh.
I will bit my tongue when impatient words come.
I will keep saying as if it were a ritual:
"He is nothing but a boy—a little boy!"

I am afraid I have visualized you as a man.
Yet as I see you now, son, crumpled and weary in your cot,
I see that you are still a baby.
Yesterday you were in your mother's arms,
your head on her shoulder.
I have asked too much, too much!

The following poem tells a sad story of a little girl who is abused by her father but is convinced it is because she has done wrong. When the doctor's ask her where she got the bruises she tells them that she did it herself.

Sorry Daddy
By Keri L. Exsterstein

You call me names. You curse me out.
When I make you mad, you scream and shout,
I know you love me, and I know you care,
There's a time when you show it,
But those times are rare,
I hardly get to see you, but the times that I do
You're either drunk or high, but Daddy…I still love you.
You hit me a lot but it's because I do you wrong,
I must do you wrong plenty,
Since these bruises stay for so long.
I keep my feelings locked up inside,
the bruises and scars, I try to hide.
When the doctor asked who gave these bruises to me
I didn't tell them it was you Daddy.
I told them it was me. I don't know if they believed me,
But they put this needle in my arm,
Daddy, I pray that when I'm gone they will do you no harm.
Daddy, I'm getting scared. I look around and you're nowhere to be found as I take my very last breath.
I go peacefully, without you, to my death.

In this poem a father is not in his daughter's life for all her important life events. She aches for his presence. She finally gets a chance to talk to him when he isn't talking back.

Father
By Brittany M. Boyer

Father today I was born as I look at the faces of all the doctors and nurses and my mother. You weren't there. I cried.
Father today is my first day of the third grade. My grandparents and mother and sister hug me and say good luck. You weren't there. I cried.
Father today I'm up getting my diploma. As they call my name I walk up and look in the audience and my family and friends cheer. You weren't there. I cried.
Father today I get married to the love of my life. As we say vows and kiss and turn to our family and friends. You weren't there. I cried.
Father today I had my first child as I hold her and everyone is gathered around me and my husband patting us on the back and hugging us and holding the baby. You weren't there, I cried.
Father today we lay you to rest. We stand around your grave and keep our heads bowed. As my family leaves I lay a rose on your grave and get on my knees and talk to you.
You're finally there to listen to me and be there, but still I cried.

See TO ALL on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A no-fly zone in Libya is a war cry

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him e-mail at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.

It didn't take long for well-meaning members of Congress this week to come up with an easy sounding proposal to help the Libyan opposition topple Moammar Gadhafi: Just impose a no-fly zone.

"We spend $500 billion on defense and we can't take down Libyan air defenses?" Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., told the Washington Post. "You tell those Libyan pilots that there is a no-fly zone, and they are not going to fly."

Sen. John F. Kerry, D-Mass., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, agreed. "A no-fly zone is not a long-term proposition ... and I believe we ought to be ready to implement it as necessary."

But there's one thing those optimistic assessments play down: Imposing a no-fly zone is an act of war, and we're already at war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

If the United States sent aircraft to patrol the skies of Libya, the first step would have to be to knock out the country's antiaircraft batteries; that's an act of war too.

And any time the United States is at war—even at the limited level of a no-fly zone—the question of further military involvement often follows.

That dilemma helps explain why top civilian and military officials of the Obama administration sounded so unenthusiastic about the idea of a no-fly zone.

"It's an extraordinarily complex operation to set up," warned Adm. Michael G. Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"We also have to think about, frankly, the use of the U.S. military in another country in the Middle East," added Mullen's boss, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates.

"We're a long way from making that decision," agreed Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who noted that other countries in the area don't favor Western military intervention.

To McCain, those statements sounded like excuses. "I think they are making up reasons" not to act, he said.

He's right; they're making excuses. And that's a good thing—at least as long as Libya's air force isn't gunning down unarmed civilians.

As no-fly zones go, an operation over Libya could be organized fairly quickly. The United States and its NATO allies already have airplanes, ships and radar in and around the Mediterranean, along with an airbase on Sicily, about 350 miles north of Tripoli.

The real reason for caution is the one Gates alluded to: We don't need another war if we can avoid it.

A look at three recent no-fly zones shows how difficult it is to keep such an operation brief and limited.

After the Persian Gulf War in 1991, the United States and its allies imposed a no-fly zone over Iraq in hopes that it would help lead to Saddam Hussein's downfall. It didn't. But it did tie up aircraft and crews for more than a decade, and it led to the loss of two U.S. Black Hawk helicopters and their crews, shot down by U.S. F-15 fighters in a mistaken-identity incident in 1994.

> As no-fly zones go, an operation over Libya could be organized fairly quickly. The United States and its NATO allies already have airplanes, ships and radar in and around the Mediterranean, along with an airbase on Sicily, about 350 miles north of Tripoli.

In 1993, the United Nations imposed a no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina; as part of that operation, U.S. fighters shot down four Serbian planes. The Bosnian war ended in a U.S.-brokered peace agreement—a success story for American diplomacy—but it also led to the deployment of U.S. peacekeeping troops in Bosnia for more than eight years.

In 1999, NATO intervened against Serbia again over the disputed province of Kosovo, a campaign that went beyond a no-fly zone to target Serbian military installations on the ground. Then-President Clinton sought to limit U.S. military action to the air, but when it appeared that the campaign might not succeed, his aides drew up a plan to send ground troops—one they never had to implement.

President Obama is in a difficult position. He has formally endorsed an international "responsibility to protect"—the concept that if civilians are being massacred by their government or anyone else, the United Nations should step in to stop the bloodshed.

And in his 2009 Nobel Peace Prize speech, the president said: "When there is genocide in Darfur, systematic rape in Congo, repression in Burma, there must be consequences. Yes, there will be engagement; yes, there will be diplomacy; but there must be consequences when these things fail."

But the consequence doesn't have to be a no-fly zone—at least, not in the full-scale form that was imposed in Iraq, Bosnia and Kosovo.

Administration officials say they are looking at a wide range of other options to dissuade Libya's air force from attacking civilians. Military experts say those could include long-distance attacks against Libya's airbases and the provision of antiaircraft weapons to anti-Gadhafi groups.

If the Libyan opposition forms a government and appeals for foreign help, that will quickly increase pressure on the administration and its allies to act.

The alternative—standing by and ignoring the opposition's pleas—won't be tenable for long.

It wouldn't be good politics, either, to pass up an opportunity to help a new and friendly government come to power.

But it's also worth counting to 10, slowly, before starting any war.

What becomes of the Mideast revolts depends on Egypt

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at trubin@phillynews.com.11

The Internet and the airwaves are clogged with contradictory predictions of what the Mideast upheavals will mean to the region _ and to us.

I have conservative readers calling me an idiot for not understanding that the Egyptian revolution is a huge victory for the Islamists, even as Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., extols the hope for secular democracy in Cairo alongside his buddy, Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain.

Some pundits insist the Mideast revolts are a victory for al-Qaida, or Iran, while others say the revolts undercut both. So, after 11 days in Cairo, I guess I should take a stab at prognostication.

Here goes: In the foreseeable, I don't think these upheavals will present a clear-cut victory for either democracy or Islam, as each shaken country will be dealing with very different internal circumstances. But the overall trend—including the impact on America's Mideast policy—will be set by what develops in Egypt.

And in Egypt, there's a decent chance that a more democratic government could emerge—including Islamists, but in a minority role.

Before I explain why democracy has a chance, let me detail why a more-democratic Egypt would be crucial for the region. In the other countries undergoing upheavals, the odds for a transition to stable democracy are far, far slimmer.

If Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi falls, he will leave a huge territory bereft of institutions and rent by tribal conflicts. In Yemen, where al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula is based, the fall of Ali Abdullah Saleh could usher in tribal wars and a greater sway by radical clerics. This could pose a worrying threat to Saudi Arabia next door.

Tunisia may muddle through, although its economy is reeling. Bahrain may find some compromise solution—but its protests, based on grievances by the emirate's Shiite majority against Sunni rulers, can easily be manipulated by Shiite Iran.

So, the outcome of Egypt's revolution is crucial, and not just because of its size and its historic role as leader of the Arab world. If the Egyptian youth revolt leads to a non-Islamist democracy—even one with flaws—it would provide a counterpoint to the claim that "Islam is the answer."

A democratic Egypt would challenge the Iranian narrative that clerical rule is the future. It would help stabilize a post-Gadhafi Libya and a weak Tunisian democracy. It would provide a Sunni ally for Lebanese democrats who are trying to hold out against the pressures of Hezbollah.

Of course, a democratic Egypt would not be as unquestioning an ally—or as quiescent a peace partner to Israel—as was Hosni Mubarak. Public pressure would force it to push much harder for a Palestinian state. But, based on many interviews in Cairo, I don't believe the peace treaty with Israel would be breached. Egyptians don't want war, and the Egyptian military would still have a key say in foreign affairs.

This brings us to the question of whether an Egyptian democracy can emerge.

The argument against this possibility assumes that the Muslim Brotherhood—Egypt's best organized Islamist group, which is allowed to run candidates for parliament _ will hijack the revolution. Yet the organizers of the demonstrations—and the vast bulk of the crowds—have not been Islamists. This revolution sought an end to corruption, and a representative government.

The skeptics point to the mammoth demonstration in Tahrir Square on Feb. 18, at which the radical Sheikh Yusuf al-Qaradawi preached, as proof that the Muslim Brotherhood has already taken control of the streets. Supposedly, the whole crowd was shouting "on to Jerusalem" or some such words—proof of the coming Islamic putsch.

I was in that crowd. No such mass chant took place (there were only small pockets of chanters). The prayers led by Qaradawi took 30 minutes out of a celebration that continued for hours, during which the signs and chants of the crowd had almost nothing to do with Islam or Palestine.

That said, the outcome of the revolution is far from certain. The Egyptian army, which is overseeing the transition to new elections, may commit errors that enable the Brotherhood to punch far above its weight (at an estimated 20 percent support from the public).

On Monday, the army called for parliamentary elections in June. This fails to allow enough time for the groups that made the revolution to organize new political parties and mobilize the 80 percent of the public that usually doesn't vote.

Such an early ballot will benefit the Brotherhood—which is already organized—as well as the former governing party, which will no doubt return under a new name. Many of the young rebels believe the military wants to recreate the previous political scenario whereby there were only two political alternatives: the ruling elite and the scary Islamists. This makes the elite look preferable.

This would be a tragic error. Egypt is ripe for democratic change that could help steady a region in dizzying transition. Those who have the Egyptian military's ear—including its benefactors in Washington—should be sending this message loud and clear.

TO ALL

From Page 10

Though the poems mention fathers, they can easily have the word "mother" substituted. Do you know why I am discussing this subject today?

At the Northern Marianas Trades Institute, I meet so many young men and women who fit the description of the children mentioned in the poems above. Daily I wonder why so many of them appear so lost in life? Then as they relate to their new surroundings, I see their pain slowly receding and their faces brightening up as they discover their inner worth and latent talents spring forth. What hurt did we give them when they were growing up?

Let us not forget that our children are with us only a brief time as we were with our parents. What gifts and memories will they carry with them when they become fathers and mothers too? Let me leave you with this thought:

"The best inheritance we as parents can give our children is a few minutes of our time each day."

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

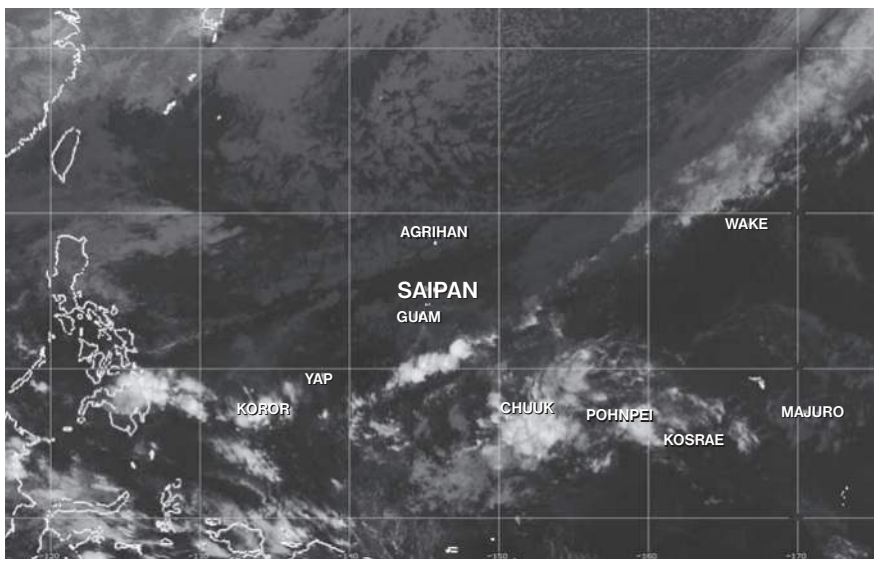
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲84	▼77
Palau	Rain	▲85	▼77
Yap	Rain	▲85	▼76
Chuuk	Rain	▲82	▼76
Pohnpei	Rain	▲81	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲83	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲70	▼61
Beijing	Sunny	▲47	▼28
Hong Kong	Showers	▲61	▼59
Honolulu	Showers	▲80	▼71
London	Sunny	▲44	▼36
Los Angeles	Showers	▲61	▼42
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼61
Miami	Showers	▲80	▼64
New York	Showers	▲45	▼30
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲48	▼38
Paris	Sunny	▲45	▼31
Pusan	Sunny	▲49	▼33
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲50	▼34
Salem	Showers	▲46	▼38
San Francisco	Showers	▲54	▼43
Seoul	Sunny	▲41	▼27
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲52	▼40
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲51	▼35

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2011

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from east of Minami Torishima at 25N160E to near Pagan at 18N146E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 15N. Cloudiness and widespread rain are found along and up to 200 miles northwest of the cold front. Patchy clouds and light showers are seen along and up to 150 miles northwest of the shear line. Converging winds southeast of the cold front are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms north of Wake Island north of a line from 20N162E to 24N175E. A surface trough reaches northeastward from EQ135E through a series of weak circulations centered at 5N143E 12N147E and 16N153E to end at 21N159E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring along the trough axis from south of Koror and Yap to east of the Marianas within 100 miles of a line from 5N135E to 9N145E to 22N160E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Chuuk and Pohnpei within 225 miles of a line from 3N145E to 9N160E. Scattered showers are present farther east of the disturbance north of Kosrae within 50 miles of a line from 11N160E to 7N162E to 6N168E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:10 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
9:02 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
3:34 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
9:27 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:31 AM	6:26 PM
Tuesday	6:30 AM	6:26 PM
Wednesday	6:30 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	6:29 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:28 AM	6:26 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:34 AM	8:14 PM
Tuesday	8:10 AM	9:02 PM
Wednesday	8:49 AM	9:51 PM
Thursday	9:31 AM	10:42 PM
Friday	10:16 AM	11:35 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, ,4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, ,4 ,5, 7
DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
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- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Make A Wish grants 200th wish

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nine-year old Elizabeth Doses' wish to have a touch-screen computer became the 200th wish granted by the Make-A-Wish Foundation Guam-CNMI Chapter.

Currently studying at Kagman Elementary School, Doses got what she wished for Saturday night from Make-A-Wish representatives at the 360 Revolving Restaurant in Susupe.

Doses invited her parents, three siblings, their church's pastor along with his wife, and her doctor's representatives to witness her happiness and excitement about the granting of her wish.

"I love this wish because it's so cool!" Doses told *Saipan Tribune* shortly after she received her Dell Inspiron One 2305 desktop computer with 23" multi-touch display and webcam.

Besides the computer, Make-A-Wish also presented Doses one-year Internet service donated by IT&E, computer table, a pink desk lamp, Hannah Montana school supplies, and a necklace and bracelet set from Caronel.

Doses, who has a heart condition, disclosed that her initial wish was to meet the celebrated television host Oprah Winfrey "because she's a very famous lady."

She, however, changed her mind and asked for the computer instead.

Presleen Doses confirmed the younger Doses' change of heart, recounting how her daughter also expressed her desire to go to Disneyland before she finally decided to settle with the computer.

"I was surprised when she changed her mind. But I know she's happy because that's her wish. I'm happy for her," she said.

Asked what would be the first thing she would do when she brings home her very own computer and turns it on, Doses said she would play Pet Pet Park, an online game for children wherein they can create and explore their virtual world by playing and buying their own pets.

"I thank [executive director] Victor [Camacho] and Dr. [Larry] Hocog for this wish," she said.

Make-A-Wish Foundation Guam-CNMI chapter executive director Victor P. Camacho said the granting of the 200th wish is equally significant as any other wish that they have already granted or will grant in the future.

"As long as there are kids that have life-threatening conditions, we will help them by granting their wishes. We hope to grant 200 more wishes and 200 more after that," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said the local chapter, which has been granting children's wishes since 1988, accommodates every child referred to them.

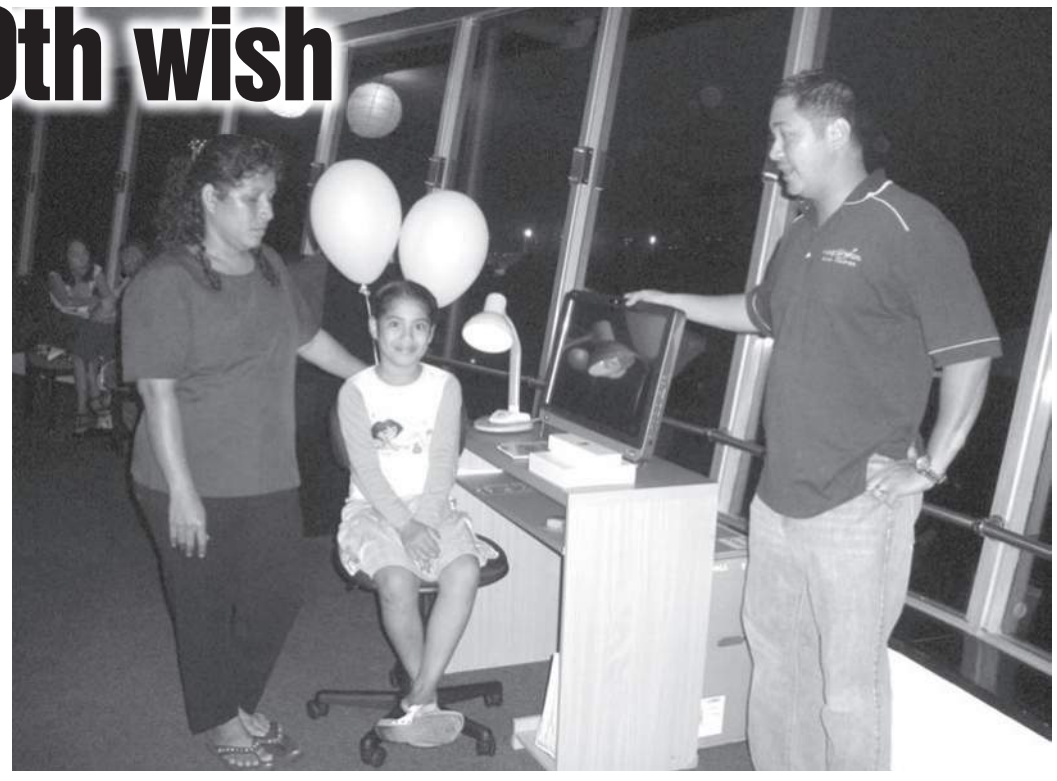
"When we get a referral, it's our goal to grant their wish within six months," said Camacho.

According to Camacho, the local chapter is currently working on getting another child's wish granted after they complete the paper work and interview process.

Camacho noted that Make-A-Wish Foundation's mission is also made possible through the various establishments that all contribute to grant every child's wish.

"It's a community effort. It's the effort of the children, their families and doctors, and businesses that provide monetary and in-kind donations. They've gone quite a long way to helping us and we thank them for their support," he said.

Camacho thanked IT&E for the one-year Internet service, Caronel for the accessories set, CMS for its assistance in building the computer disk, Pacific Islands Club for the cake and balloons, and 360 Revolving Restaurant for the generous rate.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Kagman Elementary School student Elizabeth Doses, center, is all smiles for the camera as Make-A-Wish Foundation Guam-CNMI Chapter executive director Victor P. Camacho, right, presents her wish for a touch-screen computer while her mother, Presleen Doses, looks on. Doses became the 200th child to be granted a wish in the region.

Sen. Daniel Akaka of Hawaii won't seek re-election

HONOLULU (AP)—Democratic U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka of Hawaii announced Wednesday he won't run for re-election next year after 22 years in the Senate.

The 86-year-old Akaka—the third-oldest member of the Senate—becomes the seventh recent senator to announce plans to retire.

Democrats hold a 53-47 majority in the Senate, including two independents who side with them. But they must defend 21 of the 33 seats on the ballot next year, and face a struggle to retain control.

"It was a very difficult decision for me. However, I feel that the end of this Congress is the right time for me to step aside," Akaka said in a statement. "I have always strived to serve the people with much love and aloha."

Akaka, the only U.S. senator of Native Hawaiian or Chinese ancestry, suffered a major defeat in December when he failed to get a full Senate vote on legislation granting Native Hawaiians the right to form their own government. The measure, known as the Akaka bill, had been the senator's priority for the last 11 years, but its progress has stalled indefinitely.

Akaka

Then last week, Hawaii's other senator—Daniel Inouye—said he wouldn't be able to provide Akaka the financial support he has in the past.

Inouye, a powerful force in Democratic circles, gave $300,000 to the national Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee in 2006 to help Akaka defeat a rival for the party nomination, former U.S. Rep. Ed Case.

Akaka previously said he intended to run in 2012, but he had just $66,000 in cash on hand at the end of the year, far short of the amount he'd likely need to mount a successful campaign.

"We must never forget that we, as political leaders, work for the people of Hawaii and not the special interests," Akaka said in the statement.

Akaka's retirement breaks up the Senate's most senior delegation that used its power to bring billions of federal dollars to the tiny islands. Inouye, also 86, is the longest-serving living senator, having arrived in the chamber in 1963.

"Now, the change is going to happen, and the question is, who can best start to build up that seniority and contribute to solving the problems of the state and the country?" said Case, who hasn't said whether he would run.

Former Republican Gov. Linda Lingle, who left office in December, has said she would consider a campaign for the seat. Former U.S. Rep. Charles Djou, who lost re-election in November, also has been mentioned as a possible Republican candidate.

Lingle said in a statement that Akaka served the state honorably.

"I worked closely with the senator to gain support for the Akaka bill, and I still have hopes that this important legislation will come to fruition during the remainder of his term," she added.

Inouye said last week that likely Democrats to compete for the job include Case, former Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann, U.S. Rep. Mazie Hirono, U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa and Lt. Gov. Brian Schatz.

Sen. Patty Murray, the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee's chairwoman, said Akaka would be missed. But she added that Democrats will absolutely keep the seat.

"With a heavily leaning Democratic electorate and their native son up for re-election as president of the United States, we are confident the people of Hawaii will continue to have two Democrats serving them in the United States Senate," she said.

Akaka was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for 14 years before winning the Senate seat in 1990.

During World War II, Akaka served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"Danny spent his career fighting for our troops, veterans and their families and for the rights of Native Hawaiians," President Barack Obama, who was born in Honolulu, said in a statement. "He worked tirelessly to reform Wall Street and to make sure that consumers and small business owners are treated fairly in our system. His voice in the Senate will be missed."

Akaka isn't suffering from any health issues, spokesman Jesse Broder Van Dyke said. He's retiring to spend time with his wife, daughter and four sons in Hawaii.

"He would have run a very competitive campaign, but it would have been painful in that it's not fun to fundraise, to campaign, to give speeches," Broder Van Dyke said. "He certainly could have done it, but at the end of the day, he's served the state of Hawaii for over three decades, and he definitely deserves this opportunity to enjoy his work."

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Chinese airline seeks permission to fly to Hawaii

HONOLULU (AP)—China's second-largest airline has applied to the People's Republic of China for permission to operate the first regularly scheduled direct flights between China and Hawaii. The Honolulu Star-Advertiser reports that China Eastern Airlines also needs a green light rom the U.S. Department of Transportation to begin the service. Hawaii Tourism Asia managing director Michael Merner says the Shanghai-based carrier decided to apply for the service after successfully partnering with a Chinese tour company to operate three charter flights to Hawaii during the Chinese New Year holidays. The Hawaii Tourism Authority's vice president of brand management, David Uchiyama, says the charter flights sold out in 14 days, and the airline wants to return.

Industry officials say a lack of direct flights and a difficult visa process have hampered Chinese travel to Hawaii.

Youths beaten, humiliated by Fiji military

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International)—A Fiji democracy campaigner in Australia says a group of young men who were reportedly detained and beaten by the military could have suffered worse violence without the intervention of friends and family. The Sydney-based Fiji Democracy and Freedom Movement says the youths were taken to the army barracks in Suva after talking about a demonstration proposed for tomorrow. It's president, Usaia Waqatairewa, says it was fortunate their friends and family pleaded for them to be freed or they could have suffered a similar fate to teenager Sakiusa Rabaka who died after being beaten by the military in 2007. But he says the group of about 10 young people were still subjected to physical and mental violence. "They were beaten up and slapped around, sworn at, laughed at. These are young men in their early to mid 20s. They were made to kiss each other while the soldiers mocked them. So you know they were subjected to humiliating treatment."

Samoa's 28-year-old government wins re-election

APIA, Samoa (AP)—The party that has ruled Samoa for 28 years has retained power in elections, according to preliminary results, despite criticism over the government's handling of a deadly tsunami that struck the South Pacific island nation in 2009.

The Human Rights Protection Party of Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi went to Friday's polls with 30 seats and the support of five independent lawmakers in the 49-seat parliament.

HRPP lost one seat but has the support of an additional two independents, giving Tuilaepa control over 36 seats, a single seat increase, according to preliminary results released Saturday by Samoan Electoral Commissioner Tanuvasa Meleisea Isitolo Lemisio.

The main opposition Tautua Samoa Party increased its representation by two seats, to 13. It had based its election campaign on accusations that the government mismanaged aid following the 2009 tsunami, which killed 183 people, and did not do enough to help victims of the disaster.

It was the first election test for the opposition party, which was formed by 11 independent lawmakers in 2008.

The Electoral Commission said 90 percent of the 76,000 registered voters in the island nation of 192,000 people voted, some lining up for hours before polling stations opened.

The final count may not be completed for two weeks.

Tuilaepa, 60, won his seat unopposed and will continue as prime minister. He would become Samoa's longest-serving premier, at 18 years, if he holds the job for the entire five-year term.

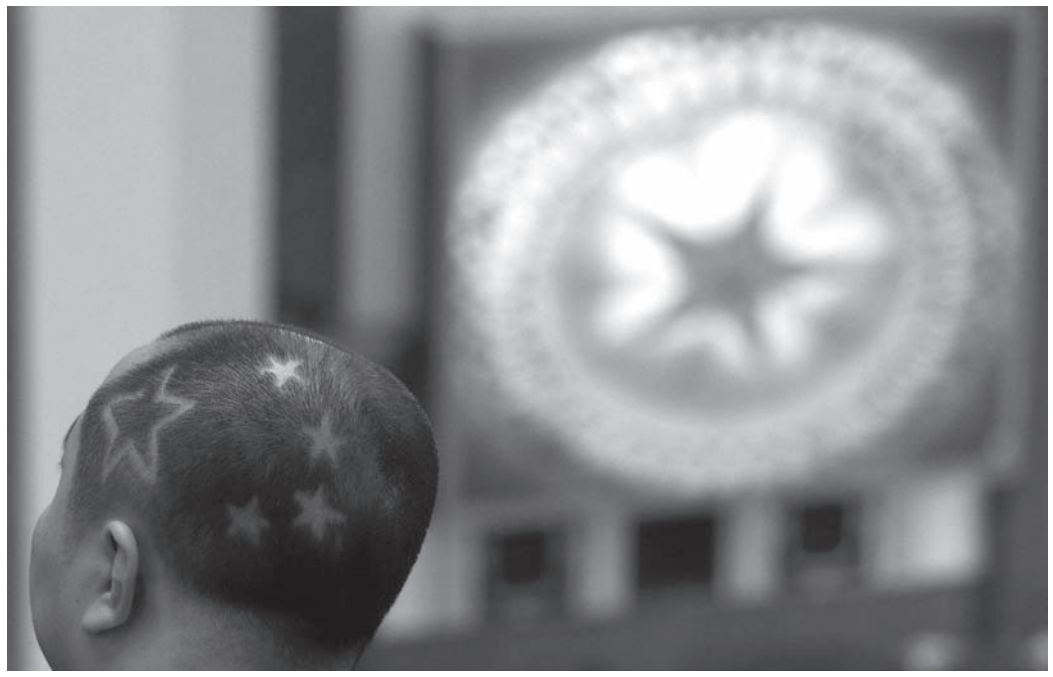
Tuilaepa's leadership team will be revamped, with three of his Cabinet ministers losing their seats in the election.

Business

China says it will tackle inflation, boost incomes

BEIJING (AP)—China's government called Saturday for higher social spending, controls on inflation and measures to urgently close a divisive rich-poor gap, betting that rising living standards, better services and heavy policing will dampen growing public expectations for change.

In a speech that is China's equivalent of a state-of-the-nation address, Premier Wen Jiabao said the government will boost spending 12.5 percent this year, with bigger outlays for education, job creation, low-income housing, health care and pensions and other social insurance. Spending on police, courts, prosecutors and other domestic security is projected to exceed the usually favored military budget for the first time in years, climbing 13.8 percent to $95 billion.



AP

A journalist with his head shaved as five stars to represent the Chinese national flag attends the opening session of the annual National People's Congress in Beijing's Great Hall of the People, China, Saturday, March 5, 2011.

Wen reiterated several times during his two-hour-plus speech that the authoritarian government sees the combination of policies as crucial to forestalling unrest among a population grown used to greater prosperity and expecting more.

"We must make improving the people's lives a pivot linking reform, development and stability ... and make sure people are content with their lives and jobs, society is tranquil and orderly and the country enjoys long-term peace and stability," Wen told the 2,923 delegates gathered in the Great Hall of the People for the opening of the national legislature's annual session.

The emphasis comes as the government seems increasingly anxious about calls of unknown origin posted online urging Chinese to stage peaceful rallies every Sunday like the ones that topped autocrats in Tunisia and Egypt. Beijing has been smothering under ever heavier security since the Internet messages first appeared more than two weeks ago.

With a new appeal calling for more rallies Sunday, the Beijing Daily issued a rare front-page editorial Saturday warning people not to be fooled into joining protests that would wreck China's prosperity.

"It's worth noting that people with ulterior motives from within and outside the country are attempting to lead China into chaos," said the daily, the capital's official Communist Party newspaper.

The plans for greater social spending along with nervousness over social unrest underscore the difficult moment the leadership finds itself in. Protests, strikes and other mass disturbances - some 180,000 last year according to Chinese academics - are soaring in tandem with living standards. While people want greater accountability and better governance if not democracy, the government is expending ever greater effort to stay ahead of public demands.

"The people are the cornerstone for the ruling party. As the old saying goes, 'The water can float the boat, but can also sink it,'" said Han Yuchen, chief executive officer at a supermarket in the northern industrial city of Handan and a delegate to the congress. "If we pay enough importance to improving the livelihood of the people, that means we care about the people and we can have a better future for this country."

The 10-day National People's Congress is a largely pro-forma affair. Wen's program has been devised and fine-tuned by the leadership over recent months, and the congress delegates - influential politicians, officials and business figures from the provinces as well as military commanders - are overwhelmingly party members.

Still the event portends important changes this year. The most far-reaching of Wen's programs is an ambitious five-year plan to transform the economy, making it more driven by consumption and less dependent on hefty state investment bank loans that have produced breakneck growth but also asset bubbles, particularly in real estate.

Such a shift would expand household spending power, level the playing field for private companies and end policies that have effectively shortchanged consumers and channeled their savings to state enterprises. In doing so, China is likely to import more, lessening friction and global imbalances with the United States and other trade partners.

In union strongholds, residents wrestle with cuts

RACINE, Wis. (AP)—There once was a time when Harry and Nancy Harrington—their teenage children in tow—walked the picket line outside the nursing home where she was a medical aide, protesting the lack of a pension plan for the unionized work force.

But those days of family solidarity are gone.

Harry now blames years of union demands for an exodus of manufacturing jobs from this blue-collar city on the shore of Lake Michigan. He praises new Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker for attempting to strip public employee unions of nearly all of their collective bargaining rights. Protesters opposed to Walker's plan have held steady at the Wisconsin Capitol for nearly three weeks, though their overnight sit-ins ended Thursday with a judge's order.

"I'm sorry, but the unions want to yell, they want to intimidate," says Harry Harrington, 69, as he sets a coffee cup down next to another newspaper headline about the union demonstrations.

"They want to be heard," retorts Nancy Harrington, 66, who fears a weakened union would jeopardize the teaching career of their now 38-year-old daughter.

The Harringtons typify the new national reality for labor unions. Support is no longer a sure thing from the middle class - not even in a city long considered a union stronghold in a state that gave birth to the nation's largest public employee union. National polls show that the portion of the public that views unions favorably has dropped to near historic lows in recent years, dipping below 50 percent by some accounts.

But surveys also show a public uneasy with attempts to weaken union bargaining rights by emboldened Republican governors who swept into power in the 2010 elections amid concerns about state finances. A Pew Research Center poll released earlier this week found more adults nationwide sided with unions than the governor in the Wisconsin dispute.

For unions, the political standoffs occurring in states such as Wisconsin, Indiana and Ohio are a make or break moment—a chance to repair tarnished luster or risk sinking toward irrelevancy among the American public.

In Racine, a nearly two-hour drive southeast of the epicenter of the union controversy in Madison, the question of the union's appropriate role has divided husband and wife, mother and child, co-workers and friends. It's the hot topic on editorial pages, at coffee shops, even at the craft club that meets in the community center at Roosevelt Park, where a dozen retired women recently were talking over the top of each other about union powers while knitting socks and hats.

Among these women, at least, the pro-union protesters are right and Wisconsin's governor is wrong. Their group includes a retired Racine public school teacher who in 1977 joined in a teacher walkout that lasted more than a month. Racine schools shut down again for one day this February when a quarter of their teachers were absent in a show of support for pro-union protesters.

21 airlines fined for fixing passenger, cargo fees

WASHINGTON (AP)—When the airline industry took a nose dive a decade ago, executives at global carriers scrambled to find a quick fix to avoid financial ruin.

What they came up with, according to federal prosecutors, was a massive price-fixing scheme among airlines that artificially inflated passenger and cargo fuel surcharges between 2000 and 2006 to make up for lost profits.

The airlines' crimes cost U.S. consumers and businesses—mostly international passengers and cargo shippers—hundreds of millions of dollars, prosecutors say.

But the airlines caught by the Justice Department have paid a hefty price in the five years since the government's widespread investigation became public.

To date, 19 executives have been charged with wrongdoing—four have gone to prison—and 21 airlines have coughed up more than $1.7 billion in fines in one of the largest criminal antitrust investigations in U.S. history.

The court cases reveal a complex web of schemes between mostly international carriers willing to fix fees in lockstep with competitors for flights to and from the United States.

Convicted airlines include British Airways, Korean Air, and Air France-KLM. No major U.S. carriers have been charged.

The price-fixing unraveled largely because two airlines decided to come clean and turn in their co-conspirators.

In late 2005, officials with German-based Lufthansa notified the Justice Department that the airline had been conspiring to set cargo surcharges. By Valentine's Day 2006, FBI agents and their counterparts in Europe made the investigation public by raiding airline offices. After those raids, British-based Virgin Atlantic came forward about its role in a similar scheme to set fuel surcharges for passengers.

Investigators eventually found a detailed paper trail laying out agreements, stretching back to 2000, to set passenger and cargo fuel surcharges The probe expanded to airlines doing business between the U.S. and Europe, Asia, South America, and Australia.

The Lufthansa and Virgin Atlantic mea culpas allowed them to take advantage of a Justice Department leniency program because they helped crack the conspiracies.

Former Associate Attorney General Kevin J. O'Connor, who oversaw Justice's antitrust division in the late 2000s, said he doesn't know why they confessed, but the result "demonstrates the effectiveness of that amnesty program."

Now in private practice, O'Connor said companies that confess for amnesty may be wisely trying to limit liabilities from illegal conduct.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

US appeals judge's order on drilling permits

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The Obama administration has appealed a judge's order requiring regulators to act on seven drilling permit applications. The government filed court documents late Friday saying it may have to deny the applications if regulators must make a decision within 30 days as ordered. The order was issued by U.S. District Judge Martin Feldman, who overturned the administration's moratorium on deepwater drilling after BP PLC's oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The documents say the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement may not have enough time to help operators meet regulatory requirements to have the permits approved by the deadline.

UK central banker warns of second financial crisis

LONDON (AP)—The Governor of the Bank of England has warned that Britain could face another financial crisis if the banking sector is not reformed. Mervyn King said that imbalances in the banking sector remain and are "beginning to grow again" according to an interview published late Friday on the website of Britain's Daily Telegraph newspaper. The U.K. allowed a banking sector to build up "which contained the seeds of its own destruction," King said. In the interview, he also expressed regret for not sounding a louder warning over his concerns before the last banking crisis, which culminated in a multibillion pound (dollar) state bailout of the financial sector.

Nation

Tornado slams La. town, downed tree kills mother

RAYNE, La. (AP)—A tornado slammed a southwestern Louisiana town Saturday, killing a young mother who was sheltering her child and injuring 11 other people. More than 100 homes were damaged, many of them destroyed, authorities said, and about 1,500 people were evacuated because of natural gas leaks.

Maxine Trahan, a spokeswoman for the Acadia Parish Sheriff's Office, said 21-year-old Jalisa Granger was killed when a tree fell on her house.

"She sheltered the child to protect her from the storm and a tree fell on the house and it killed the mother but the child was OK," Trahan said, adding that a relative who lived nearby found them.

Debris was littered throughout Rayne, a town of about 8,500 people, after a line of violent thunderstorms moved through the area and left behind a swath of damage about a quarter of a mile wide to three miles long.

Pieces of homes were strewn about the tops of trees, and power lines were down. A U.S. Postal Service truck was flipped to its side.

"It's a mess back there—a lot of damage," Trahan said. The community is near Route 10 and about 70 miles west of Baton Rouge.

Trahan said the natural gas leaks, which were later fixed, delayed authorities trying to count how many homes and businesses were damaged. About 1,500 people were ordered out of the area for the night, she said, because officials feared more gas leaks could occur. A temporary shelter was set up at a fire station—about two dozen displaced persons were there Saturday night—and officials were working to find other shelters. A curfew was imposed for the storm-damaged area and will remain in effect until at least 6 a.m.

"There are houses off their foundations," said State Police Trooper Stephen Hammons. "There are houses that have been destroyed."

The National Weather Service sent a team to investigate and confirmed a tornado had struck the area.

The system that hit Rayne quickly moved east and drenched New Orleans, where several Mardi Gras parades either were delayed, started earlier or canceled because of the severe weather.

As the storm system moved east, it weakened, and at 11 p.m. Eastern time, tornado watches expired for south-central and southwest Alabama and northwest Florida, including Destin and Panama City.

Showers and thunderstorms were expected to move through the area, contributing to rough waters and dense fog in the early-morning hours.

"The thunderstorms are moving into increasingly stable air and they're getting a little weaker as they move east, particularly the ones above land," NWS forecaster Mark Wool said Saturday evening.

Wool said the severe weather was caused by strong winds ahead of a cold front.

AP

Tornado damage is seen Saturday, March 5, 2011 in Rayne, La. A tornado slammed a southwestern Louisiana town Saturday, killing a young mother who was sheltering her child and injuring 11 other people.

Anti-abortion plans pose dilemma for Republicans

WASHINGTON (AP)—Restrict abortion or cut spending?

The Republicans' "Pledge for America" says the new majority will do both. But negotiations over the federal budget threaten to force the GOP, including its 87 House freshmen, to choose between them.

It's a lesson in congressional reality that has Republicans struggling with how to vote—and what to do—when a divided government pits pledge against pledge.

"That's a problem—and I mean, a real problem," said Ohio Rep. Jim Jordan, chairman of the conservative Republican Study Committee's budget and spending task force.

How would he vote on a budget that cuts spending but lacks the promised abortion restrictions? Jordan winces.

"We haven't seen the finished product," he said.

The House last month passed its version of the budget that would fund the government through September. The measure would cut spending by $61 billion and prohibit federal dollars from going to Planned Parenthood as long as the organization performs abortions. It also reinstates restrictions, lifted by President Barack Obama, on government money for any organization that funds abortions in foreign countries.

The abortion restrictions have almost no chance of being included in the spending plan that the Democrat-dominated Senate ultimately passes. That could be weeks from now despite a March 18 deadline that carries with it the threat of a partial government shutdown.

A compromise that could pass both the House and Senate will contain at least a good portion of the cuts that now-GOP freshmen promised during the campaign and say their constituents loudly demand. Slashing federal spending, they insist, is their No. 1 priority.

Restricting federal money for abortion providers comes a close second or third, as much a part of the GOP's campaign "Pledge" as spending cuts and repealing Obama's health care overhaul.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Serial rape suspect tried to hang self

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—The man suspected of terrorizing women with sexual assaults from Virginia to Rhode Island over 12 years tried to hang himself in his cell Saturday, but survived and was treated at a hospital, police said. Aaron Thomas, 39, was returned to jail after a brief hospital stay, New Haven police Officer Joe Avery said Saturday night. Thomas is scheduled to appear Monday in New Haven Superior Court. Police said Saturday that DNA confirmed that the unemployed truck driver is the East Coast Rapist, suspected in attacks on at least 17 women.

Man dies after falling into Nev. mine shaft

RENO, Nev. (AP)—A father of five children has died after falling into a mine shaft so deep and treacherous that rescuers had to abandon efforts to reach him while he was still alive, officials said Saturday. Devin Westenskow, 28, of Evanston, Wyo., worked at a geothermal drilling operation in Nevada and had gone exploring Wednesday with two friends during his off-hours when he fell 190 feet into the open shaft northeast of Reno. His family thanked rescue workers in a statement that also identified Westenskow. "We feel they did everything possible to rescue Devin, but that there was no way to get him out alive given the extent of his injuries and instability of the mine shaft," the statement said. "We are forever grateful for their efforts."

Mother of twins found in toxic Fla. truck charged

MIAMI (AP)—The mother of a 10-year-old girl who was found dead in an exterminator's truck in Florida was charged Saturday with murder, and faces numerous other abuse and neglect accusations. Carmen Barahona was arrested in the death of Nubia Barahona, the Miami-Dade Police Department announced nearly three weeks after the girl was found in the pickup along Interstate 95 in West Palm Beach. She was wrapped in plastic and had been doused with a toxic chemical. Her twin brother, Victor, was in the front seat, critically burned by a chemical, authorities said, and their father was lying on the ground nearby, unresponsive. Police said the father doused the boy with a chemical so toxic it sickened rescue workers.

Romney seeks to address health care woes

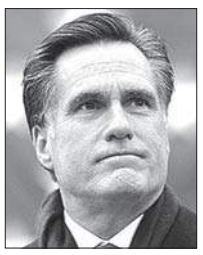
BARTLETT, N.H. (AP)—Call it an attempt to address an obvious political vulnerability. Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney on Saturday derided President Barack Obama's health care law—modeled in some ways after one the ex-governor signed in Massachusetts—as a misguided and egregious effort to seize more power for Washington.

"Obamacare is bad law, bad policy, and it is bad for America's families," Romney declared. "And that's the reason why President Obama will be a one-term president." He vowed to repeal it if he were ever in a position to do so, and drew hearty cheers from his Republican Party audience.

Then, raising the Massachusetts law, Romney argued that the solution for the unique problems of one state isn't the right prescription for the nation as a whole, and he acknowledged: "Our experiment wasn't perfect—some things worked, some didn't, and some things I'd change."

"One thing I would never do is to usurp the constitutional power of states with a one-size-fits-all federal takeover," Romney said, again earning applause. "The federal government isn't the answer for running health care any more than it's the answer for running Amtrak or the post office."

With that, he used his first appearance before New Hampshire Republicans since the midterm elections to start addressing head-on the issue that's certain to be a hurdle in his all-but-certain presidential campaign.



Romney

Romney's states-rights pitch is one that GOP primary voters are likely to hear over the next year as he tries to persuade them to overlook his flaws because he alone is the strongest Republican to challenge Obama on the country's top issue - the economy.

The failed candidate of 2008 is expected to formally announce a second candidacy later this spring. Campaign signs posted along the road leading to the hotel where he was speaking may have gotten a bit ahead of him. They said "Mitt Romney for President" and suggested that the theme would be "True Strength for America's Future."

Romney and his aides insisted they were old signs.

Among Romney's biggest challenges: explaining to GOP primary voters why he signed a law that became the foundation for Obama's national overhaul. Passed by Congress last year, Obama's health care law has enraged conservatives who view it as a costly government expansion and intrusion into their lives because it mandates insurance for most Americans.

Romney all but ignored the topic in his last major public appearance last month at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington.

But, since then, the similarities with Romney's 2006 law in Massachusetts have increasingly been dogging him.

Obama praised the efforts in Massachusetts during a meeting with governors at the White House, saying: "I agree with Mitt Romney, who recently said he's proud of what he accomplished on health care by giving states the power to determine their own health care solutions. He's right."

Also, Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, an Obama friend, said Romney deserves a lot of credit on health care. "One of the best things he did was to be the co-author of our health care reform, which has been a model for national health care reform," he said.

The praise from Democrats provides fodder for Romney's Republican primary opponents; some are already heaping on the criticism.

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee says in his new book: "If our goal in health care reform is better care at lower cost, then we should take a lesson from RomneyCare, which shows that socialized medicine does not work." It was a play on the word that conservative critics use to describe the national law: Obamacare.

Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, who is likely to run for president against Romney, took a shot at Romney when he testified before a House committee reviewing Obama's health care overhaul. He lumped Romney in with a late liberal icon and an Obama friend in saying: "Senator (Edward M.) Kennedy and Governor Romney and then Governor Patrick, if that's what Massachusetts wants, we're happy for them. We don't want that. That's not good for us."

Asia

China paper blasts Middle East protest movements

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese Communist Party-run newspaper on Saturday attacked anti-government protest movements in the Middle East and dismissed the possibility of something similar happening in China.

Such movements have brought nothing but chaos and misery to their countries' citizens and are engineered by a small number of people using the Internet to organize illegal meetings, the Beijing Daily, published by the city's party committee, said in a front-page editorial.

"The vast majority of the people are strongly dissatisfied (with the protests), so the performance by the minority becomes a self-delusional ruckus," the newspaper said.

The editorial appeared amid anonymous calls posted on the Internet for Middle East-inspired protests in dozens of Chinese cities the past two Sunday afternoons.

While drawing few outright demonstrators, the appeals have deeply unnerved authorities constantly on guard for any sign of challenges to Communist rule. Police and security agents shooed away onlookers and assaulted and detained journalists who turned up at the designated protest sites in Beijing and Shanghai.

AP

Chinese policemen ask an Associated Press cameraman to leave the area near the shopping street of Wangfujing in Beijing Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011.

Foreign reporters have been repeatedly warned to stay away from the sites this weekend and threatened with unspecified consequences if they disobey.

China's censors have carefully shaped local coverage of the protests in the Middle East to discourage Chinese citizens from drawing inspiration from them. State media emphasize the protests' negative effects on the societies and economies of the countries involved and give prominent coverage to the woes of Chinese workers evacuated from Libya and elsewhere.

In its editorial, the Beijing Daily attempted to draw a sharp distinction between China and the Middle Eastern countries roiled by unrest, where disdain for long-serving autocratic rulers has frequently been fueled by high unemployment and economic woes.

Chinese people, it said, support their nation's political stability, economic development, and favorable government policies. Those looking to create or discover news of Middle East-style protests in China will come up empty, it said.

"However, we must clearly recognize that there are always people inside and outside the country with ulterior motives who want to seize on the problems we have encountered over the course of development in order to incite unrest," the newspaper said.

Last group of Chinese flown home from Libya

BEIJING (AP)—State media say the last batch of Chinese workers in Libya has been flown home safely.

China Central Television says a plane carrying more than 300 Chinese workers who had been trapped in the strife-torn country arrived Saturday in Guangzhou in southern China. The workers were picked up in neighboring Tunisia, where many fled following the chaos in Libya.

An estimated 30,000 Chinese were working in Libya, mostly in the construction and oil industries, comprising one of the largest blocs of foreign laborers there.

China dispatched military transport planes to evacuate its citizens.

Marines in deadly Afghan valley face combat stress

SANGIN, Afghanistan (AP)—When U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Derek Goins deployed to the most dangerous place in Afghanistan five months ago, he mentally prepared for the risk of getting shot by the Taliban or stepping on bombs buried throughout this southern river valley.

But he wasn't ready for what happened to his two best friends, who were shot to death inside a patrol base by an Afghan army soldier who escaped into the arms of the Taliban.

"I grew up with those guys in the Marine Corps and shared a lot of laughs and tears with them," said Goins, 23, from Trumbull, Texas. "We expected to come here and fight and not just get murdered, and that's what it was."

The Marines who arrived in Sangin district of Helmand province in October have seen the kind of tragedy and combat stress that few can imagine—more than 30 deaths and 175 wounded, with scores losing arms and legs when they stepped on bombs.

The 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment and smaller Marine units attached to it are fighting to regain this key insurgent stronghold in one of the country's bloodiest regions.

At least 288 NATO service members were killed in Helmand province in 2010. Last year was the deadliest of the nine-year Afghan war for the international forces, with 701 killed.

Many of the Marines in Sangin say they are coping by blocking out the horrors they have seen. Psychiatrists say that behavior is normal during combat, but it could trigger post-traumatic stress disorder when the Marines go home next month.

"It's a day-by-day thing and you don't know if you're going to be the guy to get hit the next day, so you just keep on pushing," said Goins, who like most of the Marines in Sangin is on his first combat deployment.

Lance Cpl. James Fischer, whose platoon lost a Marine to Taliban gunfire the first time they patrolled outside their base, said he has become numb to even the most gruesome scenes.

"Afterward, you just don't get that shock anymore," said Fischer, 20, from Glendora, California. "You'll have to deal with it at some point, but right now the most important thing is keeping everyone around you alive."

Cmdr. Charlie Benson, a Navy psychiatrist who has visited the Marines in Sangin nearly a dozen times, said he has not seen an abnormally high rate of mental health issues in the battalion—although it's too early to tell who will have problems when they go home.

Benson, 46, from Marcelus, New York, believes the Marines are coping relatively well with the combat in Sangin because they have good leadership and feel they are making progress. Sangin is a major narcotics hub that funds the insurgents and a gateway to stream fighters into Kandahar, the Taliban's spiritual heartland.

The Marines have stepped up their efforts to deal with combat stress in recent years by deploying additional mental health professionals with the troops. They also have trained medical corpsmen, chaplains and Marines to recognize when troops are having trouble coping.

"There is a lot of stress, and it's not just combat," said Sgt. Adam Keliipaakaua, a 26-year-old Marine from Newport News, Virginia, who is on his fourth combat deployment. "It's from back home, too, with people's parents getting divorced, people's wives cheating on them or leaving them."

Keliipaakaua said he tries to prepare his Marines for the nightmares and irritability they may face when they return home and have to deal their emotions.

"For me, I'm pretty much emotionally cold. My wife tells me that all the time," said Keliipaakaua, who suffers from nightmares of a Marine dying in his arms.

An average of 15 to 20 percent of troops who have traumatic experiences during combat often suffer post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, when they return home, Benson said. The condition arises when troops continue to try to suppress emotions with drugs, alcohol or by avoiding situations that trigger painful memories.

"If you're having issues six months after the event, then that would be a good indication," Benson said. "One of the things that Marines hate is the feeling that if they had only done X, Y or Z, this guy would still be alive."

Psychiatrists often treat PTSD by having troops repeatedly tell the story that haunts them, forcing them to face their emotions and pushing them to see that often there was nothing they could have done to save their buddy, Benson said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

New Zealand earthquake death toll rises to 166

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A powerful aftershock has rocked the devastated New Zealand city of Christchurch and the confirmed death toll from last month's magnitude 6.3 earthquake has risen by one to 166. The GNS Science monitoring agency says the magnitude 4.8 aftershock struck Saturday night causing minor damage. Police Supt. Sandra Manderson on Sunday told reporters the death toll had risen to 166 with another body recovered Saturday. The final toll is expected to exceed 200. A police cordon around the downtown disaster area has been partially lifted Sunday to allow some residents and business owners to return to their ruined premises for the first time since the Feb. 22 quake.

PH secures survey ship in row with China

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine coast guard says it has deployed three vessels to secure a government oil survey ship that reported being harrased by two Chinese patrol boats near a disputed area of the South China Sea. Coast guard chief Adm. Wilfredo Tamayo said Saturday that two vessels with divers and medics on board and a surveillance vessel have been sent to patrol waters off the southwestern province of Palawan and assist the government-contracted ship on a seismic survey in the strategic area. The Philippines has filed a diplomatic protest with China and demanded an explanation for the incident Wednesday near the disputed Spratly Islands that are claimed by the Philippines, China and other nations.

9 die in fire in central Taiwan city of Taichung

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—An official says nine people died and 12 others were injured in a fire at a pub in the central Taiwanese city of Taichung. The official from the Taichung Fire Department says preliminary investigations show that the fire broke out at the pub early Sunday after a performance involving the use of LED lighting went awry. The official declined to be identified because she is not authorized to speak to the press. Local media are reporting that the packed pub first caught fire from sparks from an LED torch used by a performer, and that several bodies were found trapped on the staircase between the first and second floors.

Captive orangutans in Indonesia may be freed

TANJUNG PUTING NATIONAL PARK, Indonesia (AP)—Their black eyes peer from the slats of wooden cages, hundreds of orangutans orphaned after their mothers were shot or hacked to death for straying out of Indonesia's rapidly disappearing forests in search of food. No one wants to get them back into the wild as much as Birute Mary Galdikas, who has devoted a lifetime to studying the great red apes, now on the verge of extinction. And for the first time in years, there is a glimmer of hope on the horizon, thanks to a Hong Kong-based development company's plans to protect a 91,000-hectare (224,866-acre) peatland forest along Tanjung Puting National Park's eastern edge. "The problem has been finding a safe place to release them," said the 64-year-old scientist. "Many are ready to go right now."

World

Rebels, Gadhafi forces both make gains in Libya

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Government forces in tanks rolled into the opposition-held city closest to Tripoli after blasting it with artillery and mortar fire, while rebels captured a key oil port and pushed toward Moammar Gadhafi's hometown in a seesaw Saturday for both sides in the bloody battle for control of Libya.

With the Gadhafi regime's tanks prowling the center of the city of Zawiya, west of Tripoli, residents ferried the wounded from the fierce fighting in private cars to a makeshift clinic in a mosque, fearing that any injured taken to the military-controlled hospital "will be killed for sure," one rebel said after nightfall.

The rival successes—by Gadhafi's forces in entering resistant Zawiya, and by the rebels in taking over the port of Ras Lanouf — signaled an increasingly long and violent battle that could last weeks or months and veered the country ever closer to civil war.

Rebels in the east advanced from their eastern stronghold toward Sirte, setting the stage for fierce fighting with pro-Gadhafi forces who hold sway in the tribal area.

Western leaders focused on humanitarian aid instead of military intervention, and the Italian naval vessel Libra left from Catania, Sicily, for the rebel-held port of Benghazi in eastern Libya, with 25 tons of emergency aid, including milk, rice, blankets, emergency generators, water purifying devices and tents. It is due to arrive early Monday.

The crisis in Libya has distinguished itself from the other uprisings sweeping the Arab world, with Gadhafi unleashing a violent crackdown against his political opponents, who themselves have taken up arms in their attempt to remove him from office after ruling the country for more than 41 years. Hundreds have been killed.

Gadhafi has drawn international condemnation for his actions. President Barack Obama has insisted that Gadhafi must leave and said Washington was considering a full range of options, including the imposition of a "no-fly" zone over Libya.

The storming of Zawiya, a city of some 200,000 people just 30 miles (50 kilometers) west of Tripoli, began with a surprise dawn attack by pro-Gadhafi forces firing mortar shells and machine guns.

"The number of people killed is so big. The number of the wounded is so big. The number of tanks that entered the city is big," the rebel in Zawiya said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he feared government reprisal. The rebels vowed to keep up the fight in the city.

Witnesses who spoke to The Associated Press by telephone with gunfire and explosions in the background said the shelling damaged government buildings and homes. Several fires sent heavy black smoke over the city, and witnesses said snipers shot at anybody on the streets, including residents on balconies.

The rebels initially retreated to positions deeper in the city before they launched a counteroffensive in which they regained some ground, according to three residents and activists who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

By midafternoon, the rebels had reoccupied central Martyrs' Square while the pro-regime forces regrouped on the city's fringes, sealing off the city's entry and exit routes, the witnesses said. Members of the elite Khamis Brigade, named for one of Gadhafi's sons who commands it, have been massed outside the city for days.

The pro-Gadhafi forces then blasted Zawiya with artillery and mortar fire in late afternoon before the tanks and troops on foot came in, firing at buildings and people, witnesses said.

Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Qaid said "99 percent" of Zawiya is under government control.

"The situation in Zawiya is quiet and peaceful right now," he said Saturday at a news conference. "We hope by tomorrow morning, life will be back to normal."

The rebels fared better in the east, capturing the key oil port of Ras Lanouf on Friday night in their first military victory in a potentially long and arduous westward march from the east of the country to Gadhafi's eastern stronghold of Tripoli.

Witnesses said Ras Lanouf, about 90 miles (140 kilometers) east of Sirte, fell to rebel hands on Friday night after a fierce battle with pro-regime forces who later fled.

"Go to Tripoli!" one of the fighters yelled in English.

Another brandished a bayonet, pointed to its blade and said: "I need head Gadhafi! Head Gadhafi I need!"

An Associated Press reporter who arrived in Ras Lanouf Saturday morning saw Libya's red, black and green pre-Gadhafi monarchy flag, which has been adopted by the rebels, hoisted over the town's oil facilities.

One of the rebels, Ahmed al-Zawi, said the battle was won after Ras Lanouf residents joined the rebels.

Al-Zawi, who participated in the fighting, said 12 rebels were killed in the fighting, in which rocket-propelled grenades and anti-aircraft guns were used.

Officials at a hospital in the nearby city of Ajdabiya, however, said only five rebels were killed and 31 wounded in the attack. The discrepancy in the figures could not immediately be explained.

Were crimes committed?

Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi and his sons could be held responsible for crimes committed by their troops, according to the International Criminal Court. Some of the alleged crimes being investigated:

Tripoli Feb. 20-22, and Feb. 26: At least 228 people killed in air strikes

Misrata Feb. 18-21: At least 14 people killed in air strikes

Benghazi Feb. 15-20: 257 people killed in attacks, airstrikes

Misrata, Beyida, Derna, Ajdabiya Feb. 16-17: At least 26 people killed in attacks by security forces; Feb. 16-18: Hundreds illegally detained

Source: ESRI, Reuters Graphic: Judy Treible, Lee Hulteng © 2011 MCT

UN: Fearful migrant workers on the move in Libya

RAS AJDIR, Tunisia (AP)—Thousands of migrant workers were on the move in Libya on Saturday, trying to flee the fighting between rebels and forces loyal to Moammar Gadhafi's regime, U.N. refugee agency and immigration officials said.

Most of the thousands of foreign workers in Libya's rebel-held port of Benghazi were evacuated, the officials said, and about 10,000 others inside Libya were heading for a border crossing at Salloum, Egypt.

About 5,000 migrants including women and children were stranded at Salloum, huddled in empty buildings and in need of food, water and sanitation. Most were Bangladeshi and Africans desperate to get home, and tensions were growing among them, the International Organization for Migration said.

More broadly, the geographic spread of stranded migrants is much greater than previously thought, the organization said. Vietnamese, Nepalese and Bangladeshi migrant workers have been found in Malta, Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Algeria and Sudan.

At the Libya-Tunisia border, thousands spent the night in a 20,000-capacity tent camp, awaiting evacuation. Some of those coming from Libya in the past two days said they had attempted the journey before but were held back by heavy fighting along the way.

There has been a marked drop in the number of migrant workers coming across the border, from a peak of 20,000 several days ago to between 1,400 and 1,800, the U.N. said. On Saturday, only 500 had crossed into Tunisia by midday, said a U.N. official at the border.

People fleeing for Tunisia said they had to pass through dozens of checkpoints on the way from Tripoli to the border. All said they had been robbed by Gadhafi's security forces.

U.N. officials are trying to obtain updated satellite images to see whether large groups of migrant workers are waiting on the Libyan border, said Gilbert Greenhall, a spokesman for a U.N. disaster aid agency.

Those who crossed into Tunisia in the last two days have reported seeing thousands of fellow migrant workers on the Libyan side, but it was unclear why they were not approaching the border. The U.N. refugee agency said it worries that thousands of people trying to cross over are being held back by Libyan authorities.

Greenhall, based at the border tent camp in Tunisia, said the most recent satellite images are several days old, but that new data would only be available Sunday.

Sony Attakora, 30, said he and several dozen other men from Ghana arrived in Tunisia on Friday, after having money and cell phones taken by Libyan forces. He said the group had tried to travel last week but was ordered back by Libyan troops because of heavy fighting.

Egyptian Foreign Ministry official Nagui Ghaba said evacuees told him that people are afraid to make the trip to the border because the Libyan army was regrouping and there was the possibility that those fleeing might get caught in the fighting.

"We are afraid that the situation in Libya is getting worse," Ghaba said.

Migration officials say 191,748 people, mainly migrant workers, had left Libya. Of those, 104,275 crossed into Tunisia, 84,973 went to Egypt, 2,500 went to Niger and 4,000 went to Algeria.

Dirkou—in northeastern Niger, near Libya's border—was bracing for the arrival of several thousand Africans fleeing Gadhafi's forces. About 1,150 foreign laborers have already left Libya through Dirkou, where the International Organization for Migration has a transit center, and 500 more have recently arrived.

In Cairo, the Foreign Ministry said 145,000 Egyptians overall have returned from Libya by land, air and sea.

On Saturday, two U.S. military transport planes were taking 132 Egyptian from Djerba, Tunisia, to Cairo, U.S. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley posted to his Twitter account.

About 4,000 Egyptian workers remain in Tunisia, and most were being evacuated Saturday by sea and air, Ghaba said. Three naval vessels from Germany and one from Egypt were at the Tunisian port of Gabes, waiting to take Egyptians home, he added.

WORLD BRIEFS

Yemen ruler digs deeper; Oman drops 3 officials

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Yemen's besieged president defiantly rejected a proposal Saturday to leave office early and possibly end weeks of protests and bloodshed, while Oman's ruler pushed out three more top-level officials in attempts to quell widening demands for economic reforms and justice for the killing of a demonstrator. In Libya, Moammar Gadhafi's forces drove out rebels near the capital, Tripoli, but opposition militias took control of a key oil port amid signs that the country could be staggering toward civil war with neither side able to mount a decisive offensive. In other parts of the region, there were bursts of anger and warnings in anticipation of unrest.

Egyptians turn anger toward state security agency

CAIRO (AP)—Three weeks after President Hosni Mubarak's ouster, Egyptians are turning their anger toward his internal security apparatus, storming the agency's main headquarters and other offices Saturday and seizing documents to keep them from being destroyed to hide evidence of human rights abuses. What to do with Egypt's tainted security agencies remains one of the most contentious issues facing the military rulers who took charge after Mubarak was forced to step down on Feb. 11 after an 18-day popular uprising. The 500,000-strong internal security services are accused of some of the worst human rights abuses in the suppression of dissent against Mubarak's nearly 30-year rule. The protesters are demanding the agency be dismantled and its leaders face a reckoning.

Health & Fitness

Army's new fitness tests add taste of battlefield

By SUSANNE M. SCHAFER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT JACKSON, S.C. (AP)—Sit-ups don't make a soldier, the Army has decided. So its 30-year-old fitness requirements are getting a battlefield-inspired makeover.

Soon every soldier will have to run on a balance beam with two 30-pound canisters of ammunition, drag a sled weighted with 180 pounds of sandbags and vault over obstacles while carrying a rifle. Those were just some of the tests the Army unveiled Tuesday as it moves toward making its physical training look more like combat.

Right now soldiers have to complete sit-ups, push-ups and a two-mile run twice a year within times that vary by age and gender. Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling, the general in charge of the Army's initial military training, said he has been working to change that test for years.

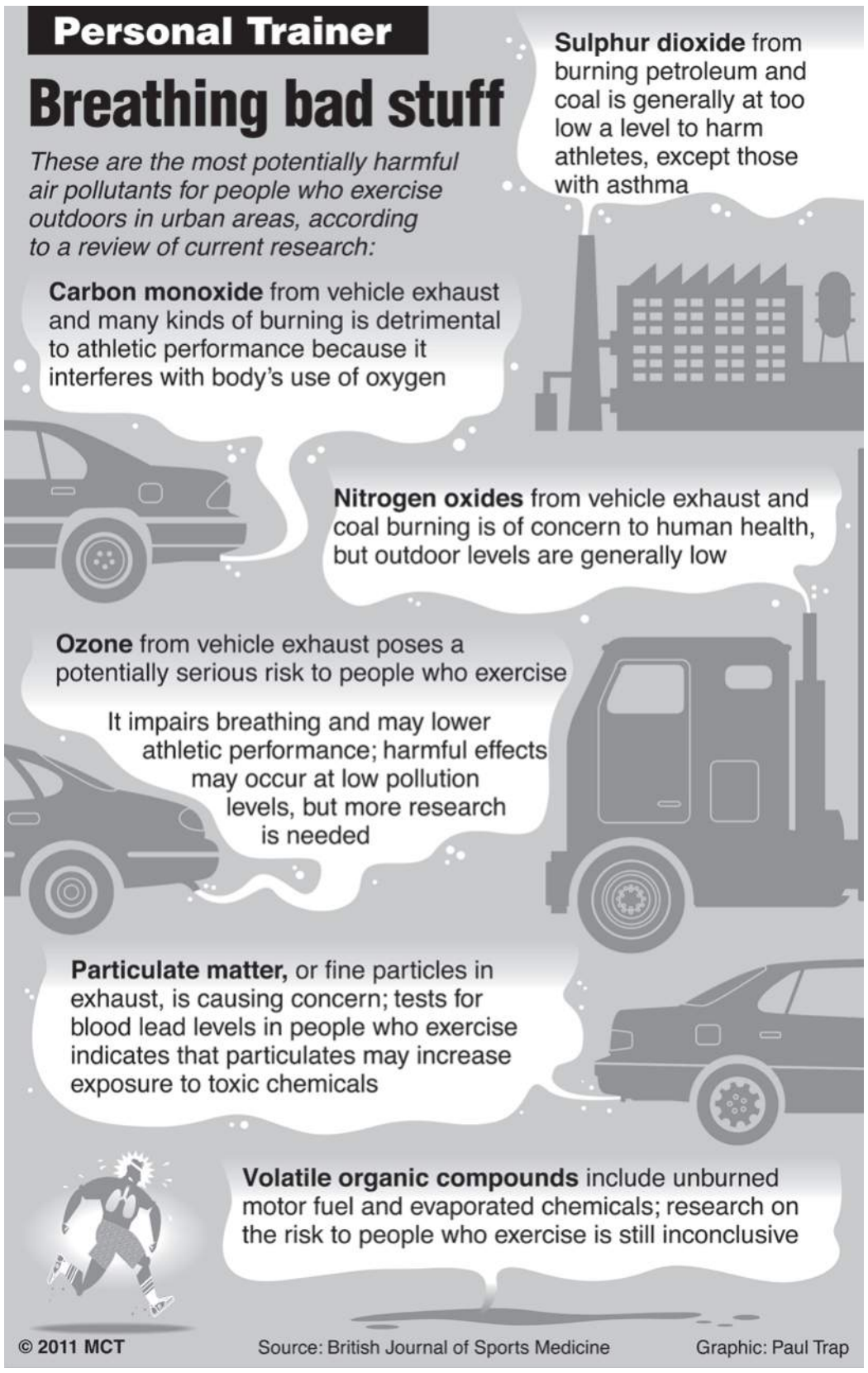
Hertling said the current test "does not adequately measure components of strength, endurance, or mobility," or predict how well a soldier would do under fire.

A new annual "combat readiness" test includes running 400 meters—about a quarter of a mile—with a rifle, moving through an obstacle course in full combat gear, and crawling and vaulting over obstacles while aiming a rifle. Soldiers also will have to run on a balance beam while carrying 30-pound ammo boxes and do an agility sprint around a course field of cones.

Soldiers also will have to drag sleds weighted with sandbags to test their ability to pull a fallen comrade from the battlefield. The combat test might be given before deployments as well as annually, but that has not been decided.

U.S. Army Sgt. Cornelius Trammell, clears a hurdle as he demonstrates one of the elements of the Army's new Combat Readiness Test, at Fort Jackson, in Columbia, S.C., Tuesday, March 1, 2011.

AP


Personal Trainer
Breathing bad stuff
These are the most potentially harmful air pollutants for people who exercise outdoors in urban areas, according to a review of current research:
Sulphur dioxide from burning petroleum and coal is generally at too low a level to harm athletes, except those with asthma
Carbon monoxide from vehicle exhaust and many kinds of burning is detrimental to athletic performance because it interferes with body's use of oxygen
Nitrogen oxides from vehicle exhaust and coal burning is of concern to human health, but outdoor levels are generally low
Ozone from vehicle exhaust poses a potentially serious risk to people who exercise
It impairs breathing and may lower athletic performance; harmful effects may occur at low pollution levels, but more research is needed
Particulate matter, or fine particles in exhaust, is causing concern; tests for blood lead levels in people who exercise indicates that particulates may increase exposure to toxic chemicals
Volatile organic compounds include unburned motor fuel and evaporated chemicals; research on the risk to people who exercise is still inconclusive
© 2011 MCT
Source: British Journal of Sports Medicine
Graphic: Paul Trap

The Army will keep elements of its old assessment in a "physical readiness" test, which adds such things as a 60-yard shuttle run and a standing long jump to one minute of push-ups and a 1.5-mile timed run. This might be given every six months, said Frank Palkoska, head of the Army's Fitness School at Fort Jackson.

Hertling said trials of the new program are starting this month at eight bases and the plan could be adopted Army-wide after reviews later this year.

Soldiers who ran the proposed "combat readiness" portion of the test Tuesday told reporters the exercises were tough, even for combat veterans.

Wearing a battle helmet and carrying a rifle, Staff Sgt. Timothy Shoenfelt teetered as he trod the balance beam, holding ammo tins in each hand. His pace slowed a bit as he dragged the green sled behind him, then held his M-4 steady as he strode sideways through the "point-move-aim" portion of the test.

"My quads are on fire!" the 31-year-old from Indiana, Pa., said afterward. "It really made me breathe hard and challenged a lot of muscle groups."

Wheeled vehicle mechanic and Sgt. 1st Class Cornelius Trammell, 33, of Eufaula, Ala., said it will be important for all soldiers to go through tests, even if their jobs are behind desks. He laughed when reporters commented on his sweaty face.

"You never know when you might need it, whether you are in the infantry or if you're a mechanic," said Trammell, who's been deployed three times.

The tests will be given to all soldiers and officers, including Army Reserves and National Guard, even those recalled soldiers who are now over 60, officials said. Specific gender and age standards are still being worked out, Palkoska said.

The shift follows other Army efforts to overhaul training, improve diets and help older soldiers keep fit. Hertling said the Army is trying to better prepare soldiers for the 40 to 70 pounds of weapons and body armor many of them need to carry in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"Soldiers like to be challenged. This will definitely challenge them," Hertling said.

The Army also is hoping to reduce injuries—both in the field and from repetitive exercises.

"This is about training smarter, not just training more," Hertling said.

Staff Sgt. Danica Foster, 28, of Brooklyn, N.Y., who pumped through a shuttle run and did push-ups for the "physical readiness" section, said the new tests will require soldiers to work on their upper body strength. Female soldiers will have to work to get them done, she said.

"I honestly believe, though, that if I can do this, anybody can," she said with a laugh.

Besides Fort Jackson, the program will be tested at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; Fort Benning, Ga.; Fort Sill, Okla.; Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Fort Lewis, Wash.; and at the Army's military academy at West Point.

Stomach pacemaker could help obese lose weight

LONDON (AP)—Patrick Hetzner tried diets and exercise, just about everything short of stomach stapling to lose weight. Nothing worked. Five months ago he tried something new: a stomach pacemaker that curbed his appetite.

Since having it implanted, Hetzner, a 20-year-old Munich mailman, has knocked off more than 10 kilos (22 pounds) from his earlier weight of 104 kilos (229 pounds).

Hetzner got the device as part of a clinical trial. Since being approved by Britain last month, the device is available for sale across the European Union. It works a bit like a cardiac pacemaker, and consists of a stimulator and a sensor surgically implanted onto the stomach.

The stimulator sends out electrical pulses meant to trick the stomach and brain into thinking the body is full. Hetzner said the pulses kick in a few minutes after he starts eating or drinking. He said they make him feel full after finishing about half the amount of food he would normally eat.

"It feels like a little pressure on my stomach or a tickle, but it's not a bad feeling," he said in a telephone interview.

"It's been like a little guide to help me change my life," he said.

So far, about 65 patients in two studies have received the device from U.S. pacemaker manufacturer Intrapace. Only about half of those have had the pacemaker for at least a year, and most lost about 20 percent of their weight and kept it off.

Other stomach pacemakers are on the market but most are used to relieve symptoms like nausea and vomiting, not to fight obesity.

Appetite is partly controlled by signals sent from nerves around the stomach to the brain; the stomach pacemaker taps into that communication system, sending a message to the brain that the body is full after a relatively small amount of food is consumed.

Life & Style

Rio's roving street bands keep Carnival free, fun

AP

Revelers dressed as nuns smiles during the "Carmelitas" street carnival parade in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Friday, March 4, 2011.

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Nuns in hot pants, nuns in full habits and even nuns with bushy mustaches—the motley band of costumed revelers gathered to celebrate the first day of Carnival, joining one of the growing number of roving street bands that take over Rio de Janeiro during the five-day party.

The "nuns" are all followers of the Carmelitas, a group started in 1991 by friends who gathered for soccer and drinks just outside a convent of Carmelite nuns. Jokes about the sisters escaping to join the party gave rise to the band, which parades twice: at the beginning of Carnival, when the nuns supposedly escaped the convent join the fun, and on the last day, when they returned to their cloistered existence.

"We're keeping the tradition, remembering the first nuns who jumped the fence," said Eliete dos Santos, 25, who was out with five other costumed "sisters" as the partying began Friday.

While the public face of Rio's Carnival is the famed two-day parade of samba groups, which can each spend more than $5 million on extravagant costumes and floats, its heart lies in these roving groups of irreverently costumed, mostly inebriated partiers who create a free, open-to-all street Carnival. Their cavorting is likely to hit a fever pitch Saturday.

A revival over the past 10 to 15 years has given the roughly century-old tradition of street bands a new swagger. This year, 424 of them registered with the mayor's office. Countless others, some little more than a group of good friends with a band and some beers, don't even bother with the legalities.

About three weeks before Carnival's official kickoff, they start parading around town, tying up traffic and playing traditional tunes or their own, wacky theme songs composed to make fun of the year's news, politicians, celebrities, or anyone who strikes their fancy.

This being Carnival, there are only the loosest rules. Generally, they congregate on a street corner, a bar or a square. Once their following swells to a sufficiently animated band of revelers, they perform a short circuit around the neighborhood, drawing along the dancing masses.

Their names reflect their idiosyncrasies. Some carry monikers that point to their geographical origin in the city: "Suvaco de Cristo," literally translated as "The Armpit of Christ," is based in a neighborhood more or less underneath the outspread arms of Rio's Christ the Redeemer statue.

Many of these roving street bands go for laughs with impossible to translate names that make not-too-subtle references to two favored Carnival pursuits: making out and drinking. "Come with me, I'm easy," "I've stopped drinking, but I haven't stopped lying" and "Poke her and she'll jump," are among the tamer examples.

For the Carmelitas, nuns reign even though all are welcome.

Marcelo Carvalho, 34, dressed as a protesting Egyptian in a tunic and sign saying "Down with the mummies" tried to talk some of them into a change of habit.

"Islam is where it's at," he told the costumed nuns. "After all the scandals, you can't shame the Catholic Church anymore. Try a new religion!"

The "Carmelitas" band entices thousands through the steep, cobble-stoned streets of Santa Teresa, one of Rio's most picturesque neighborhoods.

Some bands call out to small but specific crowds.

One group devoted to pets and their owners leaves in the early morning and promenades along Copacabana beach. Its sound truck, topped by a giant inflatable puppy, draws a family-friendly crowd. The animals range from dogs in fairy wings, party hats and ballet tutus to more exotic pets like a rooster in a polka-dot clown suit.

Rita dos Santos has brought her white poodle every year since the band's inception nine years ago.

Clinton media criticism buoys Al-Jazeera

NEW YORK (AP)—A decade ago the U.S. government attacked Al-Jazeera as a propagator of anti-American propaganda. Now Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is citing the network for fine news coverage—and tweaking the U.S. media in the process.

The Arab broadcaster says it's ready to take advantage of what it considers a major boost in its acceptance in the United States.

Clinton, on the week many U.S. television outlets were preoccupied by the spectacle of actor Charlie Sheen, suggested during testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that American networks were falling behind in the competition for information.

Al-Jazeera has been a leader in changing people's minds and attitudes, Clinton told lawmakers Wednesday.

"Like it or hate it, it is really effective," Clinton said. "In fact, viewership of Al-Jazeera is going up in the United States because it is real news."

"You may not agree with it, but you feel like you're getting real news around the clock instead of a million commercials and, you know, arguments between talking heads and the kind of stuff that we do on our news that is not providing information to us, let alone foreigners."

AP

In this March 1, 2011 file photo, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington before the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

In fact, Al-Jazeera's television viewership hasn't gone up much in the U.S. because it is still not widely available, seen only on scattered cable systems in Vermont, Ohio and Washington, D.C.

But online viewership of Al-Jazeera English spiked during the demonstrations in Egypt—up 2,500 percent at its peak, with nearly half of the followers from the United States, the network said.

Al-Jazeera has taken advantage of the moment, asking visitors to its website to click a tab that automatically generates a letter to the users' local cable system encouraging them to add the network. More than 40,000 e-mails have been generated, spokeswoman Molly Conroy said.

The network's leaders in the past two weeks have also visited with Time Warner, Comcast and Cablevision executives to seek space on their systems, she said.

"The events in Egypt have convinced an increasing number of Americans, the secretary of state included, that the coverage Al-Jazeera has provided for these events is something that is seen as a dramatic shift in perception of the network," said Abderrahim Foukara, Al-Jazeera's Washington bureau chief.

Fox News Channel's Michael Clemente said he was "surprised and kind of curious" by Clinton's remarks.

"We've got leadership issues there, the safety of people, the safety of our own people," said Clemente, senior vice president for news. "Some big issues. All of a sudden there are headlines about Al-Jazeera versus the news in this country? It's just surprising. Curious more than surprising."

Representatives from CNN, ABC, CBS and NBC news all declined comment Friday on what Clinton said.

But former CNN Washington bureau chief Frank Sesno agreed with her assessment.

'For Colored Girls' a big winner at Image Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"For Colored Girls" was a big winner at the NAACP Image Awards, taking the best picture, director and supporting-actress prizes.

Based on the award-winning play "for colored girls who have considered suicide when the rainbow is enuf," the film earned honors for director Tyler Perry and supporting actress Kimberly Elise Friday night.

One of Perry's TV shows, "Tyler Perry's House of Payne," also won outstanding comedy series, while the star of Perry's other TV show, "Tyler Perry's Meet the Browns," won best actor in a comedy series. Vanessa Williams won the TV comedy actress prize for "Desperate Housewives."

Halle Berry won best actress in a motion picture for "Frankie & Alice"—and was surprised to have Prince hand her the award—while the movie itself won for outstanding independent picture. Denzel Washington won the movie actor prize for "The Book of Eli."

On the music side, winners included Usher (outstanding male artist), Mary J. Blige (outstanding female artist), Alicia Keys (outstanding music video for "Un-thinkable (I'm Ready)") and Fantasia (outstanding song for "Bittersweet").

Among the book winners, Terry McMillan's "Getting to Happy" was named the outstanding fictional literary work, while Michelle Alexander won the top non-fiction prize for "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness." Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice earned the award for outstanding literary work for youth or teens with "Condoleezza Rice: A Memoir of My Extraordinary, Ordinary Family and Me."

Presented by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Image Awards honor diversity in the arts and outstanding achievements in film, television, music and literature.

Michael Moore rallies Wis. pro-union protesters

AP

Filmmaker Michael Moore, center, makes his way through a crowd at the state Capitol in Madison, Wis., Saturday, March 5, 2011, on the 18th day of protests over the governor's proposed budget that would eliminate collective bargaining rights for many state workers.

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—Liberal filmmaker Michael Moore urged Wisconsin residents Saturday to fight against Republican efforts to strip most public workers of their collective bargaining rights, telling thousands of protesters that "Madison is only the beginning."

The crowd roared in approval as Moore implored demonstrators to keep up their struggle against Republican Gov. Scott Walker's legislation, saying they've galvanized the nation against the wealthy elite and comparing their fight to Egypt's revolt. He also thanked the 14 state Democratic senators who fled Wisconsin to block a vote on the bill, saying they'll go down in history books.

"We're going to do this together. Don't give up. Please don't give up," Moore told the protesters, who have swarmed the Capitol every day for close to three weeks.

Police said there were "tens of thousands" of protesters but didn't give a specific count. The vast majority of the crowd was pro-union, and no one was arrested or cited. Rallies drew huge crowds the previous two Saturdays, too: about 70,000 on Feb. 19, and an even larger one on Feb. 26.

Moore told them that the wealthy have overreached, first taking the working class' money and then taking their souls by shutting them up at the bargaining table. The crowd yelled "thank you" before Moore began to speak, and he responded: "All of America thanks you, Wisconsin."

Walker has said the legislation is needed to help ease a state deficit projected to hit $3.6 billion by mid-2013, though opponents see it as an effort to weaken unions.

Negotiations between Democrats and Republicans broke down Thursday, though communication lines remain open, Sen. Tim Cullen said Saturday. Cullen, one of the Democrats who fled the state, said it's difficult for either side to compromise since Democrats don't want to lose support from their base and Walker doesn't want to appear weak by backing down.

Walker's spokesman, Cullen Werwie, wrote in an e-mail Saturday that Walker wouldn't publicly comment on the negotiations but was focused on balancing the budget and following through on his campaign pledge to create 250,000 new jobs. Walker has said he wouldn't compromise on the collective bargaining issue or anything that saves the state money.

Playing to the hometown crowd, Moore disputed the governor's claims that Wisconsin was broke, saying the idea was as farfetched as the belief that the Green Bay Packers needed former quarterback Brett Favre to win a Super Bowl. The Packers won the title last month with Favre's replacement, Aaron Rodgers.

Activists began a sit-in at the Wisconsin Capitol on Feb. 15, and although a judge ended protestors' overnight stays late last week, several hundred were back in the rotunda Saturday chanting "Who's house? Our house!" and "Hey-hey, ho-ho, Scott Walker's got to go!"

Renee Peplinski, a fifth-grade teacher in Wisconsin Rapids, said she doesn't mind making financial concessions to help the state even though it would hurt her family. She's more concerned about losing her collective bargaining rights. Without union protections, teachers would be at the mercy of administrators who could decide to fire them for any perceived slight, she said.

"Every teacher I know is depressed," said Peplinski, 42. "Every minute of the day there's this black cloud."

Thousands more marched in the streets. They banged drums, waved flags and carrying signs with messages like "No one has ever died from overexposure to education," "Worst bill ever" and "Tree huggers for unions."

Meanwhile, two other Democratic senators who fled the state joined the Rev. Jesse Jackson in Chicago to urge Walker to negotiate with workers. Sen. Lena Taylor said Democrats left because they "needed to slow the bill down."

Sean Penn thanks Venezuela's Chavez for Haiti aid

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Sean Penn thanked Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Saturday for supporting the actor's relief organization in Haiti, saying the aid has helped its humanitarian work in distributing medicines.

Chavez met with Penn at the presidential palace and praised the actor's efforts with his J/P Haitian Relief Organization, which was founded in response to the catastrophic 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

Neither provided details about how much financial assistance Venezuela has provided to the group.

The Oscar-winning actor noted that in addition to Venezuela's financial help, his organization has also received support from the U.S. military.

Penn called that ironic, adding: "We hope that this kind of collaboration can be an example for future approaches to many other issues"—in spite of limited U.S.-Venezuelan diplomatic contacts.

The U.S. and Venezuela have been without ambassadors since December, when Chavez formally rejected the White House's nominee for envoy in a diplomatic dispute. The U.S. government revoked the visa of Venezuelan Ambassador Bernardo Alvarez in response.

Penn has met four times with Chavez in recent years. Chavez has praised the actor for his critical stance toward U.S. foreign policy.

The leftist president said their meeting Saturday was productive in discussing "new plans and ideas."

"Sean is an activist of the struggles for the world's oppressed peoples, and he's leaving for Haiti right now," Chavez said outside the presidential palace when they emerged from their meeting.

AP

Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, right, shakes hands with US actor Sean Penn at the Miraflores presidential palace in Caracas, Venezuela, Saturday, March 5, 2011.

British director Charles Jarrott dies in LA at 83

LOS ANGELES (AP)—British director Charles Jarrott, whose career of nearly 50 years in film and television included the acclaimed British royalty dramas "Anne of the Thousand Days" and "Mary, Queen of Scots," has died, a spokeswoman said Saturday. He was 83.

Jarrott, who had been suffering from prostate cancer, died Friday night at the Woodland Hills retirement community operated by the Motion Picture & Television Fund, the organization's spokeswoman Jaime Larkin said.

The London-born Jarrott served in the Royal Navy during World War II and was an actor before taking up directing in 1954. He worked mostly in television, then went on to direct a prominent string of feature films in the 1960s and 1970s.

He won a Golden Globe for directing Richard Burton as Henry VIII in 1969's "Anne of the Thousand Days," which told the story of the Tudor monarch and Anne Boleyn.

Two years later, he returned with the similarly themed "Mary, Queen of Scots," with Vanessa Redgrave in the title role.

The two films, produced by Hollywood legend and "Casablanca" producer Hal Wallis, were nominated for a combined 15 Academy Awards.

He went on to direct 1974's "The Doves," 1976's "The Littlest Horse Thieves," and 1977's "The Other Side of Midnight," starring John Beck and Susan Sarandon.

He returned to television in his career's final decades, winning an Emmy for the 1995 made-for-TV movie "A Promise Kept: The Oksana Baiul Story."

He directed one final feature film, "Turn of Faith" with Charles Durning in 2002.

Pay TV battle turning bitter; no agreement reached

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—A battle over fees between Dish Network and television station owner Lin TV Corp. caused 27 local stations to go dark for Dish subscribers Saturday.

The two companies faced a deadline that came and went at 2 a.m. EST Saturday without a resolution. The stations were still unavailable Saturday afternoon.

The companies traded accusations and gave conflicting versions of which pulled the plug.

Dish Network Corp. said Lin pulled its channels down at midnight, "holding viewers in 17 markets ... hostage" to coerce Dish to submit to Lin's demands for higher rates and that it refused to negotiate during the final hours.

Lin said it has "worked tirelessly" to negotiate with Dish. Lin also said that Dish removed the signals over its objection.

Both companies said negotiations were ongoing Saturday.

Neither side has said how many subscribers are affected. Lin stations are affiliates of CBS, Fox, NBC, ABC and the CW in 17 cities including Indianapolis; Providence, R.I.; and Buffalo, N.Y.

Such disputes have become increasingly common.

In October, a breakdown in negotiations between Cablevision Systems Corp. and News Corp.'s Fox network left 3 million Cablevision subscribers in the New York area without Fox programming for 15 days—including through two World Series games—after the broadcaster pulled its signal.

Lin is based in Providence. Dish Network Corp. is headquartered in Englewood, Colo.

Prosecutors file appeal notice in Anna Nicole case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles County prosecutors have filed a notice that they plan to appeal a judge's decision to throw out drug conspiracy convictions against Anna Nicole Smith's boyfriend-lawyer and psychiatrist.

The district attorney's office filed the notice of appeal with the Superior Court on Friday. A spokeswoman says the appeal will be filed at a later date.

In January, Judge Robert Perry threw out convictions against Kristine Eroshevich and Howard K. Stern, describing the prosecution's case as overly complicated and not supported by sufficient evidence.

The ruling cleared Stern of all charges and left Eroshevich with one misdemeanor conviction. Smith's primary care physician, Dr. Sandeep Kapoor, was acquitted of all counts.

Smith died of an accidental drug overdose in February 2007.

$430k Love settlement shows tweets can be costly

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Courtney Love's settlement of a case sparked by online attacks on a fashion designer show that while Twitter posts may be short, they can also be costly.

The singer has agreed to pay Dawn Simorangkir $430,000, plus interest, to settle a lawsuit the designer filed in March 2009 over comments Love made on Twitter and her MySpace blog.

While the case didn't go to a jury, First Amendment experts say it highlights the need for celebrities and average people to watch what they say online.

"People are getting in trouble for Twitter postings on an almost daily basis," said First Amendment Attorney Doug Mirell, a partner at Loeb and Loeb who did not handle the case.

"The laws controlling what is and isn't libelous are the same regardless of the medium in which the statements appear," he said.

Nancy Derwin-Weiss, an attorney who specializes in digital entertainment and advertising law, said the amount was sure to get the attention of stars and their handlers.

"I think it's just a wake up call," she said. "It's something that their advisers should talk to them about."

AP

In this Sept. 20, 2010 file photo, musician Courtney Love attends the premiere of 'Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps' at the Ziegfeld Theatre in New York.

Simorangkir's attorney, Bryan J. Freedman, predicted the case would spark conversations between celebrities and their advisers.

"The fact is that this case shows that the forum upon which you communicate makes no difference in terms of potential legal exposure," Freedman said. "Disparaging someone on Twitter does not excuse one from liability."

Love's attorney, Jim Janowitz, said the settlement actually saved the rocker money. "This is a case where the economics of the case didn't make a lot of sense for either side," he said, noting that the costs of going to trial would have been large.

Janowitz said he would have argued that Love's statements were opinion and hyperbole, but not libelous, and that Simorangkir's sales rose after Love's tirades.

Derwin-Weiss, a partner at Wildman, Harrold, Allen & Dixon, said the settlement amount was significant.

"It's a number that's not trivial," she said. "It has some heft to it."

Twitter's popularity has skyrocketed in the past year, in part because celebrities interact with fans on a daily basis by posting candid photos, thoughts and even product endorsements.

The widow of grunge rocker Kurt Cobain, Love has gained a reputation on the microblogging service Twitter with her posts, which are occasionally profane and sometimes nonsensical messages on a variety of topics. Several posts have lashed out at attorneys and other individuals who have drawn the musician's ire, with her tweets coming in rapid succession and using every bit of the site's 140 character maximum per post.

Simorangkir sued over several postings written under Love's former Twitter account, courtney-lover79, that accused the designer, who is known as Boudoir Queen, of theft and of having a criminal background.

Simorangkir's lawsuit claimed Love became angry with her after she completed five outfits for the singer and sent her a bill.

"Love mounted a malicious campaign to not only terrorize Simorangkir, but to ruin and destroy her reputation and livelihood," Freedman wrote in a May 2009 filing.

The case had been scheduled to go to trial in February, and was expected to be the first in which a jury decides whether a celebrity's Twitter posts could be considered libel.

Freedman confirmed that a settlement had been reached, and said Love's attorneys had hoped to keep it confidential. Love also settled another lawsuit filed by Simorangkir's husband over photos for a nominal amount, Janowitz said.

Publicist: Arquette 'OK' after Beverly Hills crash

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—David Arquette's Cadillac crashed head-on with another vehicle in Beverly Hills on Friday, but the actor was not seriously hurt and even joked about the collision on Twitter just a few hours later.

Arquette, 39, was "OK" after the crash, and was on his way to being treated, publicist Cindy Guagenti told The Associated Press in an e-mail.

"I got into a car accident but I'm fine. Luckily I have dragon's blood running through my veins," Arquette quipped on his Twitter account about two hours after the accident.

Arquette apparently deleted that Tweet. It did not appear on his page later Friday night, but several others referring to the crash did.

"Remember to wear your seatbelt—wish I was," he said in one.

Another read: "It was a miracle the woman I hit was uninjured—Thank God!"

Arquette said that he was headed to the airport to catch a plane to Las Vegas for a friend's restaurant opening at the time of the crash on Doheny Drive just north of Santa Monica Boulevard along the West Hollywood and Beverly Hills city limits.

Arquette and the other driver were the only two people involved, Beverly Hills police and fire officials said. There was no immediate word on what caused the collision.

Both were taken to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles with injuries that were not considered serious.

AP

In this Oct. 16, 2010 file photo, David Arquette arrives at the Scream Awards in Los Angeles.

Arquette, who has spoken publicly about his struggles with substance abuse, said last week on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" that he has been sober since Dec. 30. He wrote Friday that he turned down drugs at the hospital after the crash.

"Refused all pain medication—may the record state—still sober!" he Tweeted.

Celebrity website TMZ, which first reported the accident, posted pictures that showed Arquette lying on a patch of roadside grass next to his silver Cadillac and another vehicle. Both had damage on their front bumpers and air bags deployed.

Spector, Shapiro settle $1M legal fee dispute

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Imprisoned music producer Phil Spector has settled his lawsuit against attorney Robert Shapiro over a $1 million retainer days before a trial was scheduled to begin.

Lawyers for the two men reported the settlement on Thursday to a judge, who ordered all discussions and the settlement's terms sealed.

Spector had been seeking a refund of the $1 million retainer he paid Shapiro after his arrest in 2003. The "Wall of Sound" producer was convicted of second-degree murder in the shooting of Lana Clarkson after two trials and is currently serving 19 years to life in prison.

Shapiro was a member of O.J. Simpson's defense team during his murder trial and represented Spector for about a year.

Spector had been fighting for years to get the money returned, claiming Shapiro took advantage of him.

AP

In this Nov. 20, 2003 file photo, record producer Phil Spector, left, stands in court with his attorney Robert Shapiro as he is arraigned on a murder charge in the shooting death of Lana Clarkson at his home in February 2003.

A trial was scheduled to begin on Monday. Many of Los Angeles' top criminal defense attorneys, including Mark Geragos and former Spector attorney Leslie Abramson, were expected to testify.

Spector is known for his work with musicians such as The Beatles, The Righteous Brothers and The Ronettes. He would not have been released for the trial, but attorneys planned to play his videotaped deposition for jurors.

"It was a case we were absolutely convinced we were going to win," Spector's attorney, Michael Dempsey, said. But he said any verdict likely would have been appealed all the way to the California Supreme Court.

Shapiro's attorney, Joel Klevens, did not return a phone message seeking comment.

Kidney disease is price paid for neglected blood pressure

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: Like many other young adults, I was too busy establishing a career during my 20s and early 30s to care much about diet and exercise. I felt healthy, so I saw no need to change my lifestyle. My doctor had told me my blood pressure was elevated during a number of my yearly physical exams, but I didn't ask any questions and took no action.

Then one morning, I walked into my doctor's office complaining of a severe headache and nausea. I was sent to the hospital with a dangerously high blood pressure reading. After just a few tests, I was told I had chronic kidney disease (CKD).

Even though it can be silent and cause no symptoms, high blood pressure should not be ignored. It is a leading cause of kidney disease, and because I didn't pay attention, my kidneys began to shut down. Abby, please tell your readers who are at risk for chronic kidney disease (and that's anyone with high blood pressure, diabetes or a family history of CKD) to check how their kidneys are functioning. I found out—too late—how important it is.

AZIZA M., NEW YORK CITY

DEAR AZIZA: Of course I will pass on your warning. According to the National Kidney Foundation, more than 26 million adults and thousands of American children have chronic kidney disease—and most of them don't know they have it. In addition, millions of people who have diabetes, hypertension and other diseases are unaware that they too are at risk for developing it.

Readers, March 10 is World Kidney Day. The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) is offering free screenings during the month of March through the Kidney Early Evaluation Program in cities and towns around the country. With more than 50 local offices nationwide, the NKF provides early detection screenings and other vital patient and community services. To find a screening near you, visit www.kidney.org.

DEAR ABBY: One day, after dropping my son "Wyatt" off at day care, I looked back and saw an older kid push him and take away my son's toy. I was furious. What happened next restored my faith and softened my heart. A little girl walked over, handed Wyatt the toy she had been playing with and patted him on the head! I was very moved that someone so young understood compassion and was willing to give up something she enjoyed so my son wouldn't be upset.

Abby, please remind your readers that the littlest gesture can change someone's life. I'm glad I stopped to take another look at my son that day. I can't thank that little girl enough.

THANKFUL FOR LITTLE ONES, LEMAY, MO.

DEAR THANKFUL: I'm glad you stopped for that second look, too. You are absolutely right that the smallest gesture can change someone's life—and that statement applies to people of every age and from every walk of life. There are angels among us, and you saw one of the littlest.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

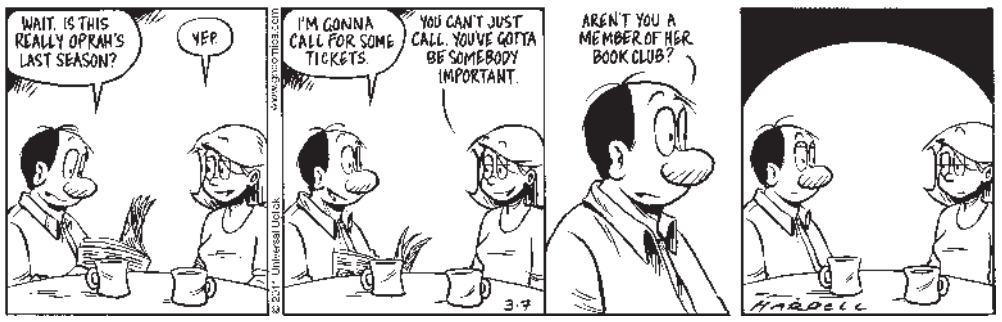
WHAT'S UP TODAY?
NOTHING SO FAR.
"SO FAR"?
WELL, YOU NEVER KNOW. SOMETHING COULD HAPPEN TODAY.
AND IF ANYTHING DOES, BY GOLLY, I'M GOING TO BE READY FOR IT!
I NEED A SUIT LIKE THAT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

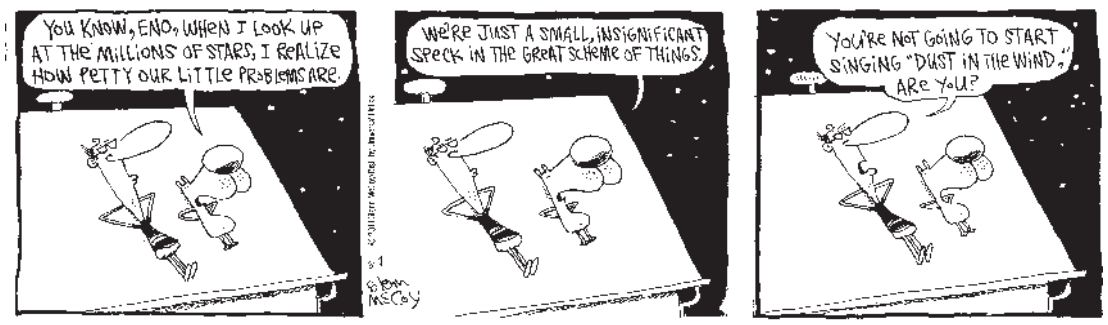
Adam@Home

By Bryan Basset


WAIT. IS THIS REALLY OPRAH'S LAST SEASON?
YEP.
I'M GONNA CALL FOR SOME TICKETS.
YOU CAN'T JUST CALL. YOU'VE GOTTA BE SOMEBODY IMPORTANT.
AREN'T YOU A MEMBER OF HER BOOK CLUB?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


YOU KNOW, ENO, WHEN I LOOK UP AT THE MILLIONS OF STARS, I REALIZE HOW PETTY OUR LITTLE PROBLEMS ARE.
WE'RE JUST A SMALL, INSIGNIFICANT SPECK IN THE GREAT SCHEME OF THINGS.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO START SINGING "DUST IN THE WIND," ARE YOU?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

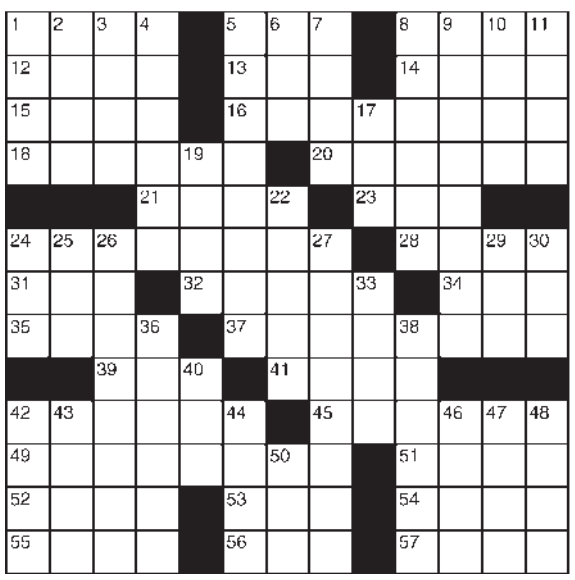
ACROSS
1 "Dragnet" star Jack
5 Newcomer to society
8 Winged
12 Verbal
13 Raw mineral
14 Hindu princess
15 Aware of
16 Seizing (from)
18 Jason of football
20 Rural steps
21 — Hari
23 Verily
24 High standing
28 Not medium or well-done
31 Actor Harrison
32 "Get — on!"
34 "Ben-Hur" author Wallace
35 Grand story
37 Tending to excrete
39 "Quiet!"
41 Hum-dinger
42 Get
45 Holly plants
49 Inquiry
51 Alpha follower
52 Grecian vessels
53 Joke
54 Grandson of Adam
55 Initial stake
56 Timecard abbr.
57 Nebr. neighbor

DOWN
1 Courts
2 Sea eagle
3 Shower alternative
4 Becomes a flower
5 Period of inactivity
6 Goof up
7 Honey bunch?
8 More Bohemian
9 Muhammad's footstep-following daughter
10 Bancroft or Boleyn
11 Fixes illegally
17 Pigpen
19 — -tat-tat
22 Galore, in disco-era jargon
24 Before (Pref.)
25 Agent, for short
26 Current
27 Twilight times
29 Gun the engine
30 Female sheep
33 Donkey (Ger.)
36 Gliding dance step
38 "Jeopardy!" emcee Alex
40 Smack
42 Blue shade
43 Rotate
44 At hand
46 TV's "Warrior Princess"
47 Harrow rival
48 Back talk
50 Rowing tool

Solution time: 24 mins.

	H	O	K	U	M		C	H	E	S	T	S
S	A	H	A	R	A		L	E	T	R	I	P
A	R	M	P	I	T		I	N	C	I	T	E
P	E	S	O		A	E	O	N		L	O	W
			K	A	H	N		A	L	A		
A	S	S		G	A	Z	A		A	N	T	I
L	O	T	T	E	R	Y	T	I	C	K	E	T
E	W	E	R		I	M	A	C		A	D	S
		R	Y	F		F	I	F	C			
S	O	L		L	I	S	A		Y	A	W	S
E	X	I	L	E	D		N	O	N	F	A	T
M	E	N	A	C	E		T	H	I	R	T	Y
I	N	G	O	T	S		A	S	C	O	T	

Saturday's answer 3-7



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jenna Fischer, 37; Rachel Weisz, 41; Wanda Sykes, 47; Bryan Cranston, 55

Happy Birthday: You should be able to get to the bottom of any personal situation that has been disrupting your life. A serious, responsible attitude is in order. Don't let someone else's uncertainty hold you back. You shouldn't have to use force in order to get your way. A playful nudge will suffice. Your numbers are 6, 15, 19, 25, 29, 34, 45

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Nice will go a lot further than nasty. You may feel stressed, emotional and tend to overreact if you don't tame the beast within you. Do whatever it takes to calm down before you interact with others. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Delve into all the jobs you've left undone. Close deals and end pending settlements. Dealing with institutions may be necessary but don't let bureaucracy intimidate you. It's only uncertainty on your part that will hold you back. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Offering to help someone will turn out poorly. Don't let circumstances lead to a dispute because you want to accommodate everyone. Joining an interest group will enhance your personal life and give you options on how to live your life. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Past experience, coupled with your unique approach, will help you get ahead personally and professionally. Avoid showing your true feelings or acting on impulse regarding an emotional situation with a friend, co-worker or dependent. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Look at the big picture and you will find a way to utilize your talents to suit whatever is currently going on in your life. Focus more on relationships and taking care of your own personal needs. Plan a romantic evening for two. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): A change of plans can alter your financial future. Join forces with someone who can offer something that you cannot. An unexpected cash injection is apparent and must be put to proper use, no matter how big or small. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take time out for a little pampering and play time. Any opportunity that allows you to enjoy the company of someone you love should be taken. Use your imagination and you will find a way to turn an idea into a worthwhile endeavor. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Put your best foot forward and make your home environment the best possible. A change of attitude will help you discover a talent or skill you didn't know you had. Doing something you love can turn into a profitable venture. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Watch out for false advertising—when shopping and in conversation, as well. Not everyone will be forthright. Someone from your past will come to mind or reappear in your life. Tread carefully or you may end up disappointed. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Jump to conclusions and you will pay the price. Accept change and work with whatever and whoever you are assigned. Being a team player will earn you points and lead to a better position. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Think back to the activities, challenges and projects you used to enjoy doing. An open conversation with someone who may have a job prospect or interesting position you can fill will pay off. You can make more money if you diversify. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Go with the flow and accept change readily. You can make interesting progress if you are aggressive in your pursuits. Don't step on someone's toes in the process. Show your true potential but work congenially. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, unpredictable, fun-loving and imaginative. You are outgoing, assertive, progressive and productive.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		3				4		
	2		3					
	4		8	1	7		9	2
		8		3	2			
3		2				6		4
			5	9		8		
9	5		6	4	1		3	
					9		7	
		6				5		

Difficulty Level ★ 3/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

1	2	3	6	5	9	7	8	4
8	4	7	1	3	2	9	5	6
5	9	6	4	7	8	2	1	3
7	6	4	3	8	1	5	2	9
2	5	9	7	6	4	1	3	8
3	8	1	2	9	5	4	6	7
9	1	2	8	4	6	3	7	5
6	7	5	9	1	3	8	4	2
4	3	8	5	2	7	6	9	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/07

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

COHIBA CIGARS **Solution: 9 letters**

E	M	X	Y	Q	Y	L	A	N	C	E	R	O	S	D
S	C	A	R	C	E	R	N	O	I	C	I	D	E	G
I	L	D	K	V	I	T	O	L	A	U	(R)	X	N	I
G	A	A	E	E	S	P	I	T	H	T	(O)	O	M	S
L	S	T	K	P	R	T	S	O	C	B	(L)	P	C	U
O	S	I	O	Y	P	B	L	I	S	A	(L)	M	U	B
N	I	M	M	T	R	A	G	A	K	E	F	E	R	T
O	C	I	S	E	I	A	R	B	R	G	N	I	E	R
O	A	L	P	C	R	O	R	W	A	A	U	T	T	O
R	L	U	E	I	D	A	G	E	D	T	T	O	C	P
E	S	P	L	E	N	D	I	D	O	N	M	I	A	I
M	S	L	C	D	N	A	I	D	N	I	E	D	R	C
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Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIA KARFELGAD-WEI, Petitioner,	FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0057
versus	SUMMONS
SHI YING WEI, Respondent.	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED REPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewee, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for your to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 3rd day of February, 2011.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

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Nets hold off Raptors in triple overtime

LONDON (AP)—Travis Outlaw and the New Jersey Nets were up to the challenge of providing excitement for the NBA's European fans.

The Toronto Raptors more than did their part, too.

Outlaw scored the final eight points for New Jersey in a 137-136 triple overtime win Saturday night that gave the Nets a sweep of their two games in London.

The game featured four missed buzzer-beaters and provided exactly the kind of thrilling finish league officials were looking for when they decided to bring regular-season games to Europe for the first time.

Outlaw made two free throws with 12.6 seconds remaining to put the Nets ahead for good and Andrea Bargnani missed a jumper at the buzzer as New Jersey swept the doubleheader at London's O2 Arena.

"Hats off to the NBA ... because I think it's a huge success," Nets coach Avery Johnson said of the European experiment. "This is one of the best wins I've been a part of."

Brook Lopez had 34 points and 14 rebounds for the Nets but fouled out in the second overtime.

Deron Williams added 21 points and 18 assists for his fifth straight double-double since joining the Nets from Utah last week.

Sasha Vujacic had 25 points—including six 3-pointers—and Kris Humphries added 20 points and 17 rebounds for New Jersey. Outlaw finished with 14 points.

DeMar DeRozan finished with 30 points for Toronto (17-46) for the second straight night.

Bargnani led all scorers with 35 points, but also missed a potential winner with 2 seconds left in the first OT.

"We had more than one opportunity to win the game," Bargnani said. "It's been an unbelievable game. Unfortunately we lost."

New Jersey won the first game at the O2 Arena in London 116-103 on Friday.

Williams, who missed a shot to win it at the end of regulation, made a jumper with 9.8 seconds left of the second overtime to tie it at 126, and DeRozan's shot at the other end then clanked off the rim with 2 seconds left. Bargnani grabbed the rebound but couldn't get a shot off before the buzzer.

Vujacic then made 3 free throws to start the third OT, before Outlaw took over the game at both ends.

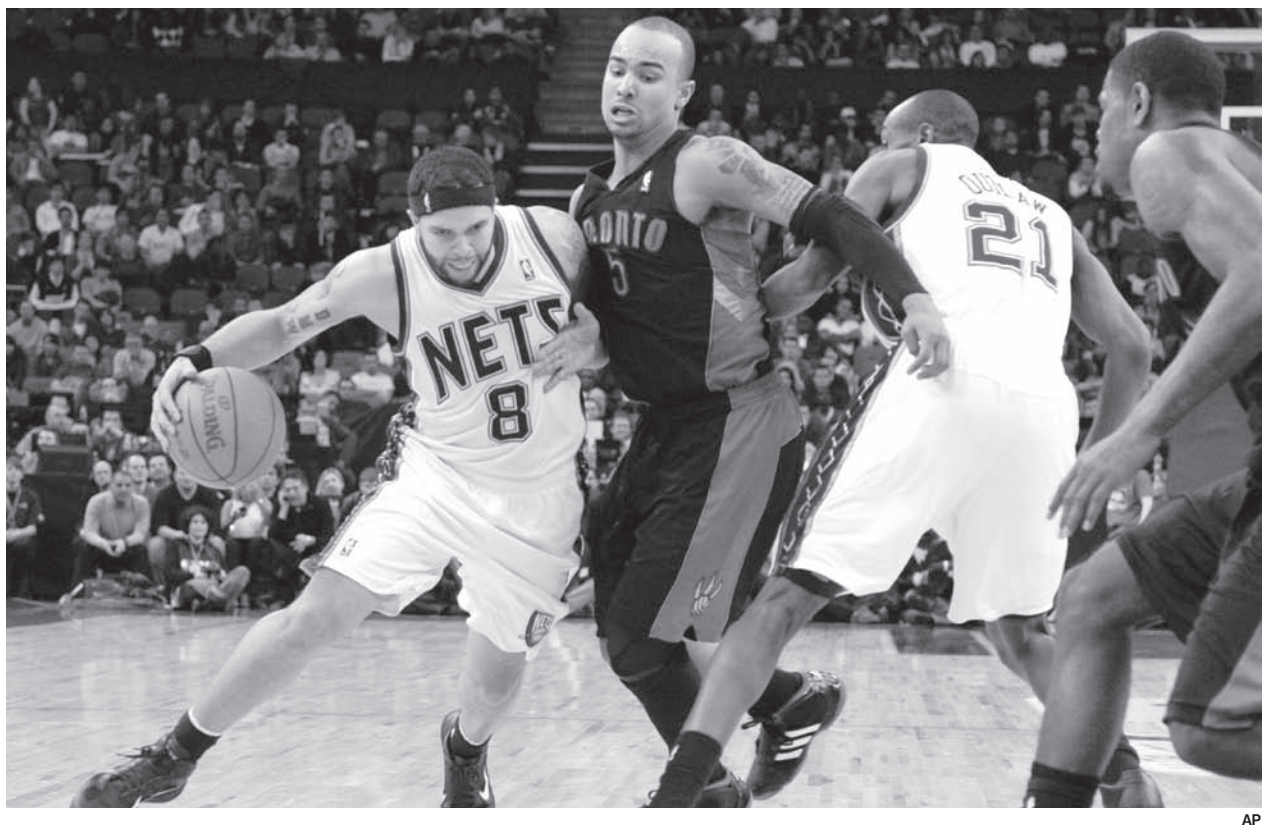
After making two more free throws, Outlaw blocked Bargnani on the next possession and held on for a jump ball against Amir Johnson. The ball went to Vujacic who missed an easy layup, but Jordan Farmar ended up with the rebound and found Outlaw for a long jumper.

On New Jersey's next possession, Outlaw grabbed his own rebound for a putback to make it 135-128.

"He was instrumental in our win today," Williams said. "We thought we had a mismatch with him on the offensive end. He stepped up and made some big shots but also made some key defensive plays on the other end."

But Toronto responded with eight straight points, capped by Leandro Barbosa's 3-pointer with 21 seconds left, only for Johnson to foul Outlaw while shooting a jumper on the next possession.

The forward made both shots, and Bargnani's long jumper rimmed out at the buzzer.



AP

New Jersey Nets Deron Williams, left, takes the ball around Toronto Raptors Jerryd Bayless during their NBA basketball match at the O2 Arena in London, Saturday, March 5, 2011.

"Take your hat off to Toronto, they deserved to win just as much as we did," Johnson said. "Unfortunately, these games don't finish in a tie."

Perhaps some British fans thought it did. A few hundred left the arena between the end of regulation and the third overtime period—although it was more likely to make sure of making the last underground train home.

The Nets were up 65-62 after a first half that featured a crowd-pleasing run-and-gun style of play but little defense from either team. The Nets shot 56.5 percent from the field in first two quarters—compared to 55.6 percent from the free-throw line, where it made 5 of 9.

Williams finished the half one assist shy of a double-double.

Rockets 112, Pacers 95

In Houston, Kevin Martin scored 20 points and Chase Budinger and Kyle Lowry added 18 apiece as Houston won for the sixth time in its last seven games.

Luis Scola scored 16 and Chuck Hayes had 10 rebounds for the Rockets, who are climbing back into the Western Conference playoff race. Houston began the night in 11th place, only three games behind Memphis for the eighth spot in the playoffs.

Tyler Hansbrough scored 17 points, Danny Granger added 16 and Roy Hibbert had 15 for the Pacers, who've dropped five of six.

Jazz 109, Kings 102, OT

In Salt Lake City, Al Jefferson scored 27 points and Raja Bell had two crucial jumpers and a steal in overtime to lift Utah past Sacramento.

Jefferson scored six points in overtime to lead a 10-2 Utah run that put the game away.

Andrei Kirilenko and Bell each finished with 16 points for the Jazz, who had lost three straight coming into the game.

DeMarcus Cousins had 18 points and 18 rebounds and Francisco Garcia returned from 21 games on the sidelines with a strained left calf to add 18, but the Kings lost for the fourth time in their last five.

Trail Blazers 93, Bobcats 69

In Portland, Oregon, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 26 points to lead Portland over Charlotte a little more than a week after the two teams pulled off a trade just minutes before the deadline.

Patty Mills scored 12 points and Brandon Roy had 10 for the Trail Blazers.

Gerald Henderson had 16 points for the Bobcats, who have lost four straight, all on the road.

The Blazers sent Joel Przybilla, Sean Marks, Dante Cunningham, and a pair of draft picks to Charlotte on Feb. 24 in exchange for Gerald Wallace, who was the last original member of the 7-year-old Bobcats.

The deal was struck just seven minutes before the deadline.

Clippers 100, Nuggets 94

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin had 18 points, 12 rebounds and a career-high nine assists as the Clippers overcame yet another injury to leading scorer Eric Gordon to beat Denver.

Eric Bledsoe scored 15 of his career-high 20 points in the fourth quarter to help the Clippers win their second game so far this month after finishing February 2-12.

Nene led Denver with 25 points and tied a season high with 14 rebounds.

Gordon left with 5:08 remaining in the second quarter after he was fouled by Timofey Mozgov and crashed to the floor, reinjuring his right wrist. It was just his second game back after missing 18 games with a sprained wrist.

Wizards 103, Timberwolves 96

In Washington, John Wall scored 18 points and had 11 rebounds to help Washington end a seven-game losing streak.

Kevin Love scored 20 points and had 21 rebounds for Minnesota, his 50th consecutive double-double, putting him just one game shy of equaling the mark set by Moses Malone in 1978-79.

Andray Blatche scored 20 points and had seven rebounds for the Wizards, who have won their last seven games at home against the Timberwolves.

NBA BRIEFS

Shaq unlikely to return for Celts game vs. Clips

WALTHAM, Mass. (AP)—Celtics coach Doc Rivers says Shaquille O'Neal's foot is still bothering him, pushing back his return to Boston's lineup. Rivers had hoped to have O'Neal play Wednesday at home against the Clippers. He has been out since Feb. 1, missing 12 games with soreness in his lower right leg and Achilles' tendon. Rivers does expect to have Delonte West back against Los Angeles. He missed his third straight game Friday with a sprained right ankle. Glen Davis has patellar tendinitis in his left knee and is expected to miss several more days of practice, while Von Wafer is in a walking boot after injuring his right calf in Friday's win over the Warriors. All four will miss Sunday night's game in Milwaukee. The team also said it would not renew center Chris Johnson's 10-day contract.

Fisher expected to play for Lakers against Spurs

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—Los Angeles Lakers guard Derek Fisher is expected to play Sunday against San Antonio despite a sprained left elbow. Fisher was injured in a tussle for a rebound with Kwame Brown during the Lakers' win over Charlotte on Friday night. The five-time NBA champion point guard has played in 476 consecutive regular-season games, the NBA's longest active streak. Fisher got treatment on his elbow Saturday, and the Lakers announced he was probable Sunday for the game at NBA-leading San Antonio. Lakers forward Matt Barnes is less likely to play after irritating a nerve in his injured right leg during pregame warmups. Friday's game was supposed to be Barnes' comeback from a 25-game absence following right knee surgery. Barnes will be re-evaluated Sunday.

Teenager returns to Dodgers camp cancer-free

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Chris Ramirez stood in the hot desert sun, smiling as he surveyed the pitchers tossing in front of him.

The teenager asked for a tryout with the Los Angeles Dodgers a year ago after he had been diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. The Make-a-Wish Foundation fulfilled his request, not knowing Ramirez would overcome his cancer and return to spring training.

"It feels great. Things have turned out the best," Ramirez said Saturday at Camelback Ranch.

The 18-year-old from San Francisco underwent chemotherapy and radiation after being diagnosed with glioblastoma following a seizure. His tumor has been reduced to the size of a pinhead and he is in remission.

"I'm so grateful he's really healthy," said his mother, Sara Beltran.

Ramirez still dreams of a career in baseball. He is a redshirt on the Skyline Junior College team in the Bay Area.

"This summer I'll be playing a lot of baseball and hoping more scouts will come and see me play," he said.

A year ago, Ramirez worked out with the Dodgers, throwing a bullpen session, fielding grounders, going through defensive drills and taking batting practice. He wore a team uniform and was given a locker in the clubhouse.

On Saturday, he took in the Dodgers' 2-0 win over Cincinnati with his mother and 12-year-old sister, Erika.

"I still can't believe the cancer I had. I got real lucky with the type of cancer that I had because it's rare and you're supposed to get it when you're 60 or 70," Ramirez said. "I feel lucky and the Dodgers gave me something to look forward to. They said I can always come back."

Last spring, Ramirez got to meet Manny Ramirez, his favorite player at the time who is now with Tampa Bay.

"I forgot about him," he said. "I hope everything works out for him and hopefully he finds it again."

James Loney, Matt Kemp, Rafael Furcal and Juan Uribe made Chris Ramirez feel at home this time.

He remembers being more shocked than depressed when he was told he had cancer.

"I never felt sick at all," he said. "Like I told the doctors, I feel like there's nothing wrong with me. I thought they got the papers mixed up (at the hospital). When they told me I had cancer, I was like, `Are you sure it's me?'"

Beltran said that while she was deeply upset by the news, her son remained upbeat.

"He said, `Mom, maybe this is a way to grow up and be a better person,'" she said, "but I said he's never been a bad kid."

Ramirez wants to pursue his baseball dreams as far as he can go. If a playing career doesn't work out, he said he wants to stay in the sport through coaching or working in sports medicine.

Sabbatini leads by 5 shots at Honda Classic

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—After making consecutive birdies, Honda Classic leader Rory Sabbatini stood in the rough along the sixth fairway, complaining to a PGA Tour official about a delay in play and wondering what had become of the group just ahead of him.

The strange interruption could have halted Sabbatini's momentum. Instead, after a long wait he hit an iron 200 yards to 10 feet of the pin, one of his better shots among the 66 Saturday that gave him a cushy lead.

Sabbatini will enter the final round at 9-under 201, five shots ahead of Jerry Kelly and 2009 winner Y.E. Yang.

The wait at No. 6 occurred when Kelly, playing two groups ahead of Sabbatini, lodged a shot in a palm tree. A newspaper photographer's zoom lens was used to identify the ball as Kelly's, allowing him to avoid being penalized for a lost ball.

The inspection took time, so the twosome behind Kelly played through. Meanwhile, Sabbatini and playing partner Kyle Stanley waited and wondered how they had caught up with Kelly.

"It was a little bit of dazed and confused," Sabbatini said. "We're like, `OK, where did he come from?' And we're trying to figure out what's going on."

A South African who lives in Fort Worth, Texas, Sabbatini's known for his feisty manner and candor on any topic—even Tiger Woods. But nothing has riled him up this week, and he tried to look at the delay as something positive.

AP

Rory Sabbatini of South Africa tees off on the fourth tee during the third round of the Honda Classic golf tournament, Saturday, March 5, 2011, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

"Actually, I think maybe that might have helped me slow down a little out there," he said. "It allowed me to back off a little bit and kind of refocus again. So I think that was a good thing."

Yang birdied the last two holes for a 3-under 67 and moved into a tie for second with Kelly, who shot a roller-coaster 68. Gary Woodland also had a 68 and was fourth, six shots behind. Second-round leader Stanley had a 74 to drop seven strokes back.

Sabbatini, who changed putters this week, made birdie putts of 2, 40, 12, 18 and 18 feet.

"I've been putting well all year; I just didn't feel like I was making anything," he said. "Sometimes just changing the look of things, changing the feel of things, can kind of just spur something."

With his new mallet-style putter, Sabbatini had the lowest round for the second day in a row after tying the tournament course record with a 64 Friday.

Sabbatini has won five PGA Tour titles, most recently at the 2009 Byron Nelson Championship. But he's perhaps best known for once calling Woods "more beatable than ever," long before the sex scandal that sent Woods' career off track.

Sabbatini said he dislikes being cast as a villain, which may be why he switched from Friday's wide-brimmed black hat to a white one. He said he hadn't decided what color to wear Sunday, but regardless, he'll be wearing a target as the leader.

Given the tough course and conditions at PGA National, Kelly doesn't consider his five-shot deficit insurmountable.

"It's catchable in three holes," he said. "You never know what three holes they may be. You've just got to play solid, get some birdies, and you never know."

Sabbatini's take on being the front-runner: "You'd better be able to run faster if you're being chased."

Windy conditions have made pars precious all week, and weather will likely be a factor again Sunday. With thunderstorms in the forecast for the afternoon, tee times for the final round were moved up.

Sabbatini, Kelly and Yang will tee off last. Kelly, a Wisconsin native and a former hockey player who can get feisty himself, played with Sabbatini just last week at the Mayakoba Golf Classic.

"We always have a good time together," Kelly said. "Him talking it up doesn't bother me, because I tend to do the same thing."

Lee Westwood, who fell to No. 2 in the rankings this week behind Martin Kaymer, was tied for 30th at 4 over after a 75. Westwood must finish alone in third place or better to regain the top ranking next week.

First-round leader Spencer Levin was tied for 16th at 2 over after a 73.

NFL, union taking weekend break from mediation

WASHINGTON (AP)—Those optimistic about the NFL's labor talks with the players' union will point to the sides' decision to push back the bargaining deadline by a week and think, as Commissioner Roger Goodell put it: "The fact that we're continuing this dialogue is a positive sign."

And those who are pessimistic about where this all eventually is headed will recognize that, as league lead negotiator Jeff Pash described it:

"We've got very serious issues. We've got significant differences."

That last observation has been obvious all along. Indeed, from shortly before Thanksgiving until the day before the Super Bowl in February, the sides went more than two months without sitting down in large groups for face-to-face, formal bargaining on a new collective bargaining agreement.

The sides were using this weekend to assess their positions, before resuming talks in front of a federal mediator Monday—and then they will have until the end of Friday to reach a new CBA, thanks to two extensions of the old deal. It originally was to have expired last Thursday.

What will happen is still anyone's guess. A deal could be reached at any time. Talks could break off. The sides could agree to yet another extension.

After having such a hard time arranging full-scale sessions, the league and NFL Players Association have spent time at the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service on 11 of out of 15 days. According to mediator George Cohen, the tenor of the talks has changed.

The two parties reached a "level of dialogue" and "constructive discussion" where they "fully, frankly and candidly talk to each other," Cohen said Friday.

Pash gave Cohen and his colleagues at the FMCS, a U.S. government agency, credit for that.

"What the mediators bring to the process is a structure and a discipline that wasn't always there," Pash said. "They inject a seriousness of purpose to it. And they encourage you. They keep you going."

There wasn't someone to play that role before Feb. 18, when Cohen first presided over the negotiations, only days after the NFL filed an unfair labor practice charge against the union with the National Labor Relations Board.

The sort of discourse now present was a rarity since the owners exercised a mutual opt-out clause in the CBA in 2008.

There has been plenty of acrimony along the way. When either side spoke publicly about the process, it often was to take a jab at the other side for not responding to proposals or for being unreasonable. The league would accuse the union of hoping not to get a deal done so it could dissolve and pursue an antitrust lawsuit. The union would accuse the league of hoping not to get a deal done so it could lock out the players.

Those two strategies—and the specter of the NFL's first games lost to a work stoppage in nearly a quarter-century—are set aside for the moment. But they could emerge again if things don't go well.

The extension until next Friday indicates neither side was quite ready to make the drastic move of shutting down a league that rakes in $9 billion a year and is more popular than ever. The past two Super Bowls rank No. 1 and No. 2 among most-watched TV programs in U.S. history.

Money, not surprisingly, is what is at the center of the standoff.

One person with knowledge of the negotiations told The Associated Press on Friday that the NFLPA has not agreed to any major economic concessions—and that the NFL has not agreed to the union's long-held demand that the league completely open its books and share all financial information.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because Cohen asked everyone involved not to comment on the substance of the talks.

The key issues all along have been:

-How to divide revenues, including what cut team owners should get up front to help cover costs such as stadium construction and improvement. Under the old deal, owners received about $1 billion off the top. They entered these negotiations seeking to add another $1 billion to that.

■ A rookie wage scale, and where money saved by teams under that system would go.

■ The owners' push to expand the regular season from 16 games to 18 while reducing the preseason by two games.

■ Benefits for retired players.

There's another way in which money is a factor: The longer it takes to come to an agreement, the more revenues are going to start slipping away.

The league has estimated there would be a cut in gross revenues of $120 million without a new collective bargaining agreement by early March; $350 million if there's no CBA by August, before the preseason starts; and $1 billion if no new contract is in place until September. If regular-season games are lost, the NFL believes revenue losses could top $400 million a week.

"The reality is what is going to move the needle on this is the fact we are into March, when season tickets and sponsorships have to be set, and people need to make decisions to set the gross revenues," agent Peter Schaffer said. "There's urgency there."

Ex-NY Giants star Burress to leave prison in June

NEW YORK (AP)—Former New York Giants Super Bowl star Plaxico Burress is to get out of prison in June, after officials agreed Friday to shave about three months off his time behind bars in a gun case.

A committee of prison-system staffers decided Burress was eligible for time off for good behavior, so he can be freed after serving about 21 months of his two-year sentence, system spokeswoman Linda Foglia said.

With Burress' release date now set for June 6, his agent and lawyer said he's looking to return to football—and a number of teams are looking at him.

"He's counting the hours," lawyer Peter M. Frankel said. "He's extremely positive."

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has ruled that Burress would be reinstated and eligible to sign with a team upon completing his sentence. While the league and players are locked in negotiations that have cast a shadow of uncertainty over the sport's next season, Frankel and Burress agent Drew Rosenhaus said several teams had expressed interest in the receiver.

"The future is very bright for Plaxico," Rosenhaus said in an e-mail.

Burress, 33, caught the winning touchdown for the Giants over the New England Patriots in the final minute of the 2008 Super Bowl. But his fortunes turned in November of that year, when he went to a Manhattan nightclub with a gun tucked in the waistband of his track pants; he later said he had been concerned for his safety because a teammate had been held up at gunpoint days before.

Burress' weapon slipped down his leg and fired, injuring him in the thigh. The bullet narrowly missed a security guard, prosecutors said.

The gun wasn't licensed in New York or New Jersey, where Burress lived, and his Florida concealed-weapons permit had expired. He also failed to report the incident to authorities.

He pleaded guilty in August 2009 to attempted criminal possession of a weapon.

CNMI

From Page 28

ter three days of competition and had to play one more set to determine the team that will join Australia to the next round. Australia was undefeated in the three-day tournament to top the four-team field.

Matson and Clarkson went on to edge the visitors in the tie-break to earn a ticket to the next Zonal tournament, which will be held in China.

In the men's division, the Aussies also topped the field, followed by PNG, Guam, and the CNMI. The CNMI were represented by the duos of Tyce Mister and Chris Nelson and Clay McCullough-Stearns and Andy Nutting, who met some stiff competition over the weekend. Each team managed to win a pair of matches during the first day of competition, but ended up getting stuffed from that point on. Toni Yamada and Amber Roberts also played in the weekend tournament and were the members of the other CNMI women's team.

Meanwhile, Oceania Volleyball president Chris Schacht was present at the event and was quite pleased with its turnout.

"Even though the facilities do not accommodate large grandstands, it was still a fantastic atmosphere for beach volleyball. Saipan is a beautiful island with very friendly people and the event was well organized, especially for a first time host," Schacht said.

Schacht, who is also Australia's team manager, later had the two Aussie women's teams play a few exhibition matches after the conclusion of the women's golden set.

Schacht shared that all four Australian teams are top-level competitors and play professional volleyball year round all over the world. He also said that some of the players would consider participating in next year's Marianas Cup Pro-Am tournament.

Playing for Australia in the women's division were Bechara Palmer, Louise Bawden, Tamsin Hinchley, and Alice Rohkamper. The men's members were Chris McHugh, Casey Grice, Issac Kappa, and Sam Boehm.

Before they leave, Australian players plan on visiting schools to showcase their volleyball skills and promote the sport to local youths.

Virtually all Australia and Papua New Guinea competitors were first time visitors to the region and knew very little about Saipan or the CNMI.

"We are very happy with our performance and result. Our team is young and a competition such as this is new to most of us. I had a great time on Saipan and I am even more excited now because we get to move on to the next event," the 19-year-old Richard Batari of PNG said.

Northern Marianas Islands Volleyball Association in coordination with the Asian Volleyball Confederation and Federation International DeVolleyball organized the tournament. Other major supporters and sponsors include the Marianas Visitors Authority, PIC, Mikasa, and Delta Airlines.

HOOPS

From Page 28

Lisua split his charities, with six seconds left on the clock.

With both teams out of time outs, the Hoops' Ponce Rasa made a quick inbound and passed the ball to John Sablan near midcourt. Sablan then pitched the leather to the sprinting Sablan. Sablan received the ball and banged into the wall-liked defense of the Ol'Aces' Peter Camacho. With nowhere to go and the clock ticking, Sablan turned, pulled up from a baseline jumper against Camacho's outstretched arms, and hit the dagger as time expired.

Before his game-saving basket, Sablan was without a field goal in the fourth quarter and made only four free throws. He finished with 26 markers, but had to bleed for his points, as the Ol'Aces defense ganged up on him every time he sliced through the basket.

It was a come-from-behind win for the Hoops, as the Ol'Aces took control of the match late in the first quarter after falling behind at 2-10. Back-to-back triples from Freddie Pelisamen sparked the Ol'Aces rally and they were already on top at the end of the opening period, 22-19.

The Ol'Aces hung in there, as Tony Diaz came off the bench and provided instance offense, while Pelisamen continued to sizzle. However, Pelisamen did not start in the fourth period and when he went back to the game, he was cold and was held to a free throw. The Ol'Aces also lost defenders Romeo Iginoef and Zack Diaz in the homestretch.

Lisua checked in for the fouled out Iginoef and almost saved the day for the Ol'Aces when he grabbed an offensive rebound off a Tony Diaz's miss and was tripped by John Sablan. Lisua pulled up for the first free throw, but the ball rattled in and out, keeping the score at 92-all. He drilled the second one, but his effort was put into waste when Dave Sablan answered with a clutch basket.

NMC Proa 92, Satbahi 71

In the other playoff game, NMC Proa had an easier win, routing Satbahi, 92-71.

NMC Proa had a good shooting night, while Satbahi struggled from the 3-point area, allowing the former to make it to the semifinals against the top-ranked IP&E Konflikt.

Pete Iguel paced NMC with 36 points, while Dan Barcinas chipped in 25 and the Proa scoring duo more than filled for what Jack Lizama left on the team's offense. Lizama was slapped with an eight-game suspension for elbowing IP&E's Kae Bernardo during their game last Wednesday.

Iguel and Barcinas combined for 21 points in the first period, which ended with NMC ahead, 31-23. The advantaged ballooned to 21 at the break, 56-35, as Satbahi was held to four field goals in the second canto.

Satbahi lives and dies on 3-point shooting and unfortunately the latter happened, as Wowie Abuel and crew misfired their target. Satbahi made only four triples after more than 20 tries. In the second half, Satbahi connected only one shot from downtown.

Meanwhile, the semifinal round will be played tonight with NMC taking on IP&E in the first game at 6:30pm and Mobil facing the Hoopaholics in the second match at 8pm. IP&E won its first meeting over NMC on March 2, 85-77, while Mobil edged the Hoops on Feb. 2, 83-79.

Winners of these semis games will square off in a best-of-three championship series beginning on Wednesday.

First Game

NMC Proa 92 – Iguel 36, D. Barcinas 25, Johnson 5, Mendiola 5, Ruluked 4, Villacrusis 4, Palacios 3, Babauta 2, A. Barcinas 2.

Satbahi 71– Mangali 16, Mortos 15, Abuel 12, Aquino 10, Demapan 8, Sison 2, Paraiso 2.

Scoring by quarters: 32-23, 56-25, 74-56, 92-71.

Second Game

Hoopaholics 94 – Joyner 27, D. Sablan 26, J. Sablan 17, Villacrusis 8, P. Rasa 4, Manibusan 4, Fitial 4, Mendez 2.

Ol'Aces 93 – Pelisamen 19, T. Diaz 19, Ogumoro 13, Tumaquip 10, Renguul 9, Iginoef 7, Camacho 7, Kenty 4, Z. Diaz 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-22, 41-44, 65-71, 94-93.

PHAT

From Page 28

record to three wins and a loss. Salty's now has three wins and two losses. Laolao Bay broke into the win column with a 9-5 victory over Gorillaz in the last matchup of the night. Laolao and Gorillaz have similar 1-3 records.

Phat Boyz 12, X-clusive 8

Phat Boyz hit the board first with a sacrifice fly by Byron Kaipat in the first inning. Island Apparel X-clusive answered later in the bottom of the second inning and pulled ahead, 7-0.

The first four runs were scored off a couple of errors and a pair of RBI knocks by Angel Reyes and Frank Pangelinan. The last three runs came off a RBI single by John Reyes and a two-RBI double by J.J. Cabrera.

Phat Boyz fired back with four runs to start the third. After a leadoff walk and an out, Glen Camacho belted a two-run homer. Then a double later, Byron Kaipat busted another two-run shot.

X-clusive did not answer and Phat Boyz pulled ahead, 8-7, in the top of the fourth off a two-RBI double by Jun Kaipat and a RBI single by Camacho. Then Phat Boyz added a pair of runs in the fifth off RBI knocks by Craig Sanchez and Dennis Cabrera.

X-clusive managed a run in the bottom frame off a single by Poland Masaharu, but was denied access to the plate from that point on.

Laolao Bay 9, Gorillaz 5

Gorillaz took an early 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning off a sacrifice fly and a two-run shot by Ton Tenorio. Laolao Bay started slow and did not answer until the bottom of the second with a pair of runs scored off an error and a RBI by Paul Santos.

Gorillaz got a run back in the bottom frame off an error, but Laolao took the lead, 5-4, in the top of the fourth off a fielder's choice and RBI singles by Charlie Wabol and Robin Oiph.

Gorillaz came up empty in the bottom frame and Laolao added two runs to start the fifth off a base knock by Nico Martin and a walk with the bases loaded. Gorillaz managed its final run in the bottom of the sixth, but Laolao answered with two runs to start the final inning and held on for the win.

Man Amigos 15, Salty's 3

Man Amigos broke the ice with three runs off five hits in the first inning. Jerry Ayuyu, Manny Sablan, and Joey Dela Cruz all ripped RBI singles.

After a scoreless second inning, Salty's came up empty again to start the third. Then Man Amigos' top of the order trudged ahead, 10-0, in the bottom frame. Ayuyu cleared the bases after a pair of leadoff hits. Then Peter Sablan stepped in and smashed a two-run homer, and two hits later, Jeff Cabrera unloaded on a three-run blast before Salty's could escape the inning.

Salty's managed a run to start the fourth off a sacrifice fly, but Man Amigos added five runs in the bottom half. Two of the first three Man Amigos batters reached on a hit and a double that set up a three-run homer by Peter Sablan. Then an out and an error later, Cabrera jacked a two-run bomb that brought Dela Cruz to the plate with him.

Salty's only mustered a pair of runs in the fifth inning and had to bow via mercy rule in five innings.

Softball action continues tonight with a 6:30pm men's division pairing between Red-Eye (1-3) and Calikano Groupers (2-2), followed by a 7:30pm women's duel featuring Enamo Meta (2-1) and Check It Out (1-3). Then a juicy men's game closes the night with Phat Boyz taking on Man Amigos at 8:30pm.

VETERANS

From Page 28

weather. Emoto and other participants in the longest race of the day toured the northern portion of the island first, as from the starting line at the American Memorial Park, they went to Marpi and made the turnaround at the Marianas Resort. From Marpi, marathon participants headed south through Beach Road until reaching the turning point near the post office in Chalan Kanoa to return to the AMP compound.

Joining Emoto and Kuroda in the Top 6 were Kentaro Uno (3:02:12)m Satohi Setoguchi (3:08:05), Masahiko Nagasaka 93:09:41), and Takuya Nomura (3:12:56).

Hirao was the seventh overall finisher, but first in the women's division, as she timed in at 3:14:09. The 30-year-old veteran joined a marathon event in Japan a week before going to Saipan. She finished 22nd in the Tokyo race and said it felt great to win on Saipan in her back-to-back marathon in two weeks. Hirao had been competing in various races in Japan, including the 2010 Tokyo Marathon where she made it to the Top 10 with a time of 2:47:32.

Hirao's victory foiled Mamiko Oshima-Berger's bid to regain the women's title. The two-time Saipan Marathon champion lost the women's tiara last year to Mayu Mochizuki despite a record-time of 3:16:14, which was better than Oshima-Berger's 2009 winning time of 3:22:45.

Oshima-Berger was a bit in tears after completing the race, as she missed the women's championships by less than three minutes after clocking in at 3:16:28. However, friends including Mieko Carey, cheered her up for a job well done. Oshima-Berger finished more than 20 minutes ahead of the eventual third placer.

Rounding out the Top 6 were Yukiko Sugiyama (3:40:04), Kimie Yamashiya (3:47:01), Sachiko Suzuki (3:51:45), and Kaoru Miyo (3:51:14).

Half marathon and 10k races were also held last weekend and the complete list of winners of these events will be published in *Saipan Tribune*'s Tuesday edition. More than 800 runners joined the Marianas Visitors Authority-organized races.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	45	15	.750	_
New York	31	29	.517	14
Philadelphia	31	30	.508	14 1/2
New Jersey	19	43	.306	27
Toronto	17	46	.270	29 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	43	19	.694	_
Orlando	40	23	.635	3 1/2
Atlanta	37	25	.597	6
Charlotte	26	36	.419	17
Washington	16	45	.262	26 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	42	18	.700	_
Indiana	27	35	.435	16
Milwaukee	23	37	.383	19
Detroit	22	41	.349	21Ω
Cleveland	12	49	.197	30 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	51	11	.823	_
Dallas	45	16	.738	5 1/2
New Orleans	36	28	.563	16
Memphis	34	29	.540	17 1/2
Houston	32	32	.500	20

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	38	22	.633	_
Denver	37	27	.578	3
Portland	35	27	.565	4
Utah	33	30	.524	6 1/2
Minnesota	15	49	.234	25

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	44	19	.698	_
Phoenix	32	28	.533	10 1/2
Golden State	27	34	.443	16
L.A. Clippers	23	40	.365	21
Sacramento	15	45	.250	27 1/2

Saturday's Games

New Jersey 137, Toronto 136, 3OT
Washington 103, Minnesota 96
Houston 112, Indiana 95
Utah 109, Sacramento 102, OT
Portland 93, Charlotte 69
L.A. Clippers 100, Denver 94

HONDA CLASSIC SCORES

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida (AP) – Scores Saturday at the Honda Classic, a $5.7 million US PGA Tour event played on the par-70, 7,158-yard Champions Course at PGA National Resort and Spa:

Third Round

Rory Sabbatini	71-64-66	–201
Y.E. Yang	68-71-67	–206
Jerry Kelly	71-67-68	–206
Gary Woodland	71-68-68	–207
Kyle Stanley	68-66-74	–208
Charles Howell III	71-71-67	–209
Matt Bettencourt	70-70-69	–209
Tommy Gainey	71-67-71	–209
Ricky Barnes	70-68-71	–209
Jeff Overton	69-72-69	–210
Stuart Appleby	68-70-72	–210
Roland Thatcher	70-73-68	–211
Justin Leonard	70-71-70	–211
Matt Kuchar	69-70-72	–211
Charl Schwartzel	68-69-74	–211
Kent Jones	72-71-69	–212
Hiroyuki Fujita	72-71-69	–212
Scott Gutschewski	73-70-69	–212
Davis Love III	73-70-69	–212
Hunter Haas	70-71-71	–212
Webb Simpson	74-67-71	–212
Spencer Levin	67-72-73	–212
Marc Leishman	72-72-69	–213
Colt Knost	74-69-70	–213
Fredrik Jacobson	74-68-71	–213
Jimmy Walker	74-67-72	–213
Luke Donald	73-68-72	–213
Sean O'Hair	70-70-73	–213
Nathan Green	73-67-73	–213
Josh Broadaway	78-68-68	–214
Chad Campbell	74-70-70	–214
Graeme McDowell	73-71-70	–214
Chris Kirk	73-70-71	–214
Jason Dufner	75-67-72	–214
Justin Hicks	73-68-73	–214
Lee Westwood	70-69-75	–214
Robert Allenby	71-73-71	–215
Richard S. Johnson	72-71-72	–215
J.J. Henry	71-70-74	–215
Cameron Tringale	71-70-74	–215
John Senden	70-71-74	–215
Chris Couch	70-70-75	–215
Ben Curtis	72-74-70	–216
Alex Cejka	71-74-71	–216
Brian Gay	74-70-72	–216
Kenny Perry	71-72-73	–216
Carl Pettersson	70-71-75	–216
Greg Chalmers	68-72-76	–216
William McGirt	75-70-72	–217
Shaun Micheel	74-71-72	–217
Paul Goydos	73-72-72	–217
Nick Price	70-74-73	–217
Blake Adams	73-73-72	–218
Chad Collins	74-72-72	–218
Edoardo Molinari	73-73-72	–218
Vaughn Taylor	71-75-72	–218
Ian Poulter	74-71-73	–218
Kevin Streelman	73-71-74	–218
David Mathis	71-72-75	–218
Stephen Ames	73-72-74	–219
Alex Prugh	74-71-74	–219
Chris Stroud	73-69-77	–219
Louis Oosthuizen	75-70-75	–220
Henrik Stenson	74-70-76	–220
Andres Romero	72-74-75	–221
Jeff Maggert	75-70-76	–221
Brendan Steele	74-71-76	–221
Rory McIlroy	73-71-77	–221
Marc Turnesa	75-71-76	–222
D.A. Points	74-72-76	–222
J.P. Hayes	76-69-77	–222
David Duval	74-71-77	–222
Trevor Immelman	74-71-77	–222
Jhonattan Vegas	76-70-77	–223
Ernie Els	75-71-78	–224
Steve Flesch	73-73-78	–224
Josh Teater	75-70-79	–224

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend Sports

Off-island athletes excel

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI athletes Yvonne Bennett, Ji Hoon Heo, and Rezne Wone may have been off-island, but they continued to bring honors to the Commonwealth after their notable performances in collegiate competitions.

Bennett is a member of the Boise State University track and field team and made good account of herself in a couple of tournaments. In the 200m race in the Bronco Open Indoor Meet, the BSU freshman logged 25.87 seconds, eclipsing her Micro Games mark of 26.41 seconds. Then in the 4x400m relay run in the same indoor meet, Bennett led the Bronco to a come-from-behind win with the best split time of 57.08 seconds.

In the 2011 Western Athletic Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships, Bennett also raced in the 4x400m relay where her team finished second and the CNMI sprinter posted a faster split time of 55.57 seconds. Bennett competed in the 400m of the same event and tallied 57.84 seconds, which is better than her Micro Games record of 61.30 seconds.

Heo is suiting up for Hawaii Pacific University and helped the Sea Warriors to back-to-back wins over University of Hawaii-Hilo in the NCAA Division II last week. Heo had a 3-1 record against the Vulcans, winning two singles matches and splitting his doubles assignments. The former CNMI No. 1 junior netter remained undefeated in singles in his debut season with the Sea Warriors.

Wong is part of the University of Hawaii-Manoa that ruled the 2011 Conference-USA Championship in Houston, Texas last week. The CNMI swimmers raced in three events and advanced in the finals.

He joined the 200yard individual medley race and finished fourth with a time of 1:51.02 and competed in the 400m IM and placed third in the preliminary race before ending up in fourth spot in the finals. In his last event, Wong swam in the 200 breaststroke event and was again one notch away from winning a medal after finishing fourth with a time of 2:01.92.

Also excelling in an off-island tournament were Mieko Carey, Lewie Tenorio, Kieran Daly, and Susan Marchitti. Carey topped the women's division of the 2nd Annual Tour de Guahan, Tenorio and Marchitti won their respective age group, and Daly teamed up with Guam-based Saipan athlete Matt Mancao in ruling the two-man division of the 110-kilometer bike race.

While CNMI athletes had successes in off-island events, on-island team soldiered on in local competitions.

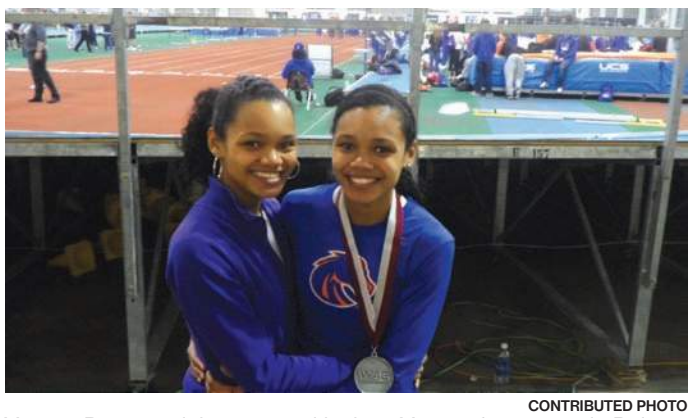
In basketball, the UBA/Docomo caging was down to four teams with IP&E Konflikt, Mobil, NMC Proa, and the Hoopaholics in the semifinals.

In baseball, the Saipan Little League and Saipan Major League continued with their regular season games.

Then just before the week ended, NMASA announced that the CNMI had already submitted its bid for the 2017 Pacific Mini Games.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ji Hoon Heo, front row, second from left, joins other members of Hawaii Pacific University men's tennis team for a group photo.

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
Members and coaches of the Jets pose for a group photo after a Senior League game at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Yvonne Bennett, right, poses with sister Yvette after a meet in Boise.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Rezne Wong, left, seen here in a file photo during the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau, helped University of Hawaii-Manoa win the 2011 Conference-USA Championship in Houston, Texas last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Hoopaholics' Jawn Joyner makes a reverse layup against Ol'Aces defenders during their playoff game in the UBA/Docomo caging on Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
NMC Proa's Pete Iguel, center, goes up for a layup against Satbahi's Glenn Aquino, left, and Rolly Paraiso during their playoff game in the UBA/Docomo caging on Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Veterans reign in Saipan Marathon

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Long-time Japanese runners Satoshi Emoto and Noriko Hirao ruled the 2011 Saipan Marathon held on Saturday.

Emoto completed the 42-kilometer race in two hours, 44 minutes, and 52 seconds, crushing the 2010 winning time of compatriot of Masaharu Kijima (2:53:15) and finishing seven minutes ahead of eventual runner-up and fellow Japanese runner Hidekatsu Kuroda (2:51:38).

The 38-year-old Emoto is a seasoned runner, having competed in various races in the U.S. mainland, Hawaii, Guam, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand. He joined the Gold Coast Airport Marathon in the Land Down Under last year and was the 18th overall finisher in the race with an impressive time of 2:35:29.

The Saipan Marathon was Emoto's first and he said he enjoyed the race and the good

See VETERANS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Eventual Saipan Marathon champions Satoshi Eda, right, and Noriko Hirao near the finish line of Saturday's race at the American Memorial Park.

CNMI advances to Olympic qualifier

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Melody Matson and Amanda Clarkson defeated Papua New Guinea's Hazel Ruga and Dianne John in the golden set, 15-12, in the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) Beach Volleyball Oceania Continental Sub Zonal tournament at the Pacific Islands Club sand courts yesterday to advance to the next round of the series of 2012 London Olympic qualifiers.

The final records of the CNMI and PNG women's teams were unavailable at press time, but the hosts and the visitors were tied af-

See CNMI on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
Melody Matson pops up a serve in the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) Beach Volleyball Oceania Continental Sub Zonal tournament tiebreaker golden set against Papua New Guinea yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club sand courts.

Hoops, NMC complete semis cast

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

For sure, the Hoopaholics' Dave Sablan would not mind missing a lot of shots as long as he made the one that counted the most.

Sablan connected on a difficult turnaround jumper in the last two seconds of the game, lifting the Hoopaholics to a thrilling 94-93 victory over the stunned Ol'Aces in their playoff game in the 2nd Docomo Pacific/UBA Men's League on Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The win advanced the Hoops to the semifinals against the second-ranked Mobil, while the loss booted out the Ol'Aces.

The Ol'Aces had the lead for the last time at 93-92 after Ben

See HOOPS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Hoopaholics' Dave Sablan, seen here going for an off-balanced shot against Satbahi, made the dagger in the Hoops' 94-93 playoff win over the Ol'Aces in the UBA/Docomo caging on Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Phat Boyz still flawless in Chamolinian softball

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
Phat Boyz's Byron Kaipat swings for a two-run homer against Island Apparel X-clusive during their game in the Chamolinian softball league on Wednesday at the Capital Hill Field.

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Phat Boyz, Man Amigos, and Laolao Bay all notched wins during last Wednesday's 2nd Annual Budweiser-Chamolinian Softball Association Slow-Pitch League men's division triple header at the Capital Hill Field.

Second-ranked Phat Boyz extended its streak to four after taking down Island Apparel X-clusive in the first game, 12-8. Phat Boyz is neck and neck with Natibu, which is still perfect after five games.

Meanwhile, Man Amigos routed Salty's, 15-3, in the second game and improved their

See PHAT on Page 26